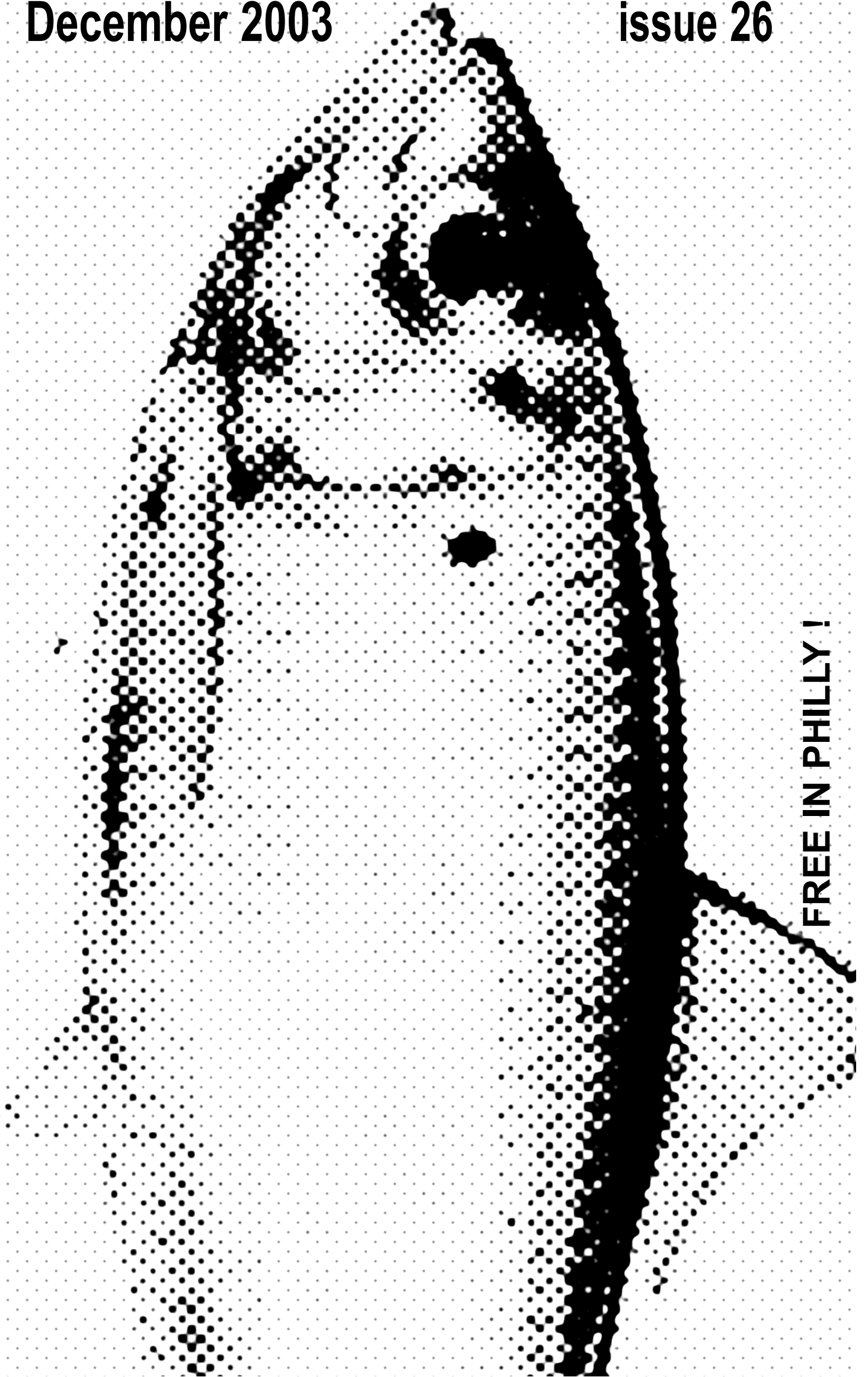


the defenestrator

December 2003

issue 26



FREE IN PHILLY !



the defenestrator

The defenestrator is Philly's sporadic newspaper for resistance, creative revolution and action. To defenestrate Power means total refusal of its tools and tentacles. Like the Hussites had their oppressors thrown down from the Prague castle into the angry mob below, the defenestrator wrestles power and privilege from its highest and most protected strongholds and casts the beast out of the window and down into the angry hands of the people.

Deadlines for future issues:

January 15 * March 15

Prison Staff! Caution ! Protected Private Property

This newspaper remains property of the sender unless it has been personally and materially accepted by the prisoner to whom it has been addressed. In the event that the prisoner is denied direct access to this publication, it must be returned to the sender with notice of reasons for failing to deliver to addressee.

Distribute defenestrator outside of Philly!

The defenestrator is free in Philly. Outside of Philly, send \$2 per issue postage paid. If you care to distribute this fine paper, you can get 10 or more for 80 cents each. We ask you sell them for no more than \$1.50 a piece.

Get on the defenestrator email list!

We send out announcements for demonstrations, emergency mobilizations, benefit parties and defenestrator events. If you want on, send a blank email from your address to defenestrator-subscribe@lists.riseup.net or click the link on our website. The list is low traffic (usually about 1 message a week) and easy to get off if you so choose.

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8 People Arrested at Benefit for Activist People of Color Brooklyn, NY

by Critical Resistance

November 16, 2003 - People attending a fundraising event in Brooklyn were shocked early this morning by unprovoked and violent assault at the hands of the NYPD. Up to 100 people attending a fundraiser for activists of color were indiscriminately sprayed with chemical agents, beaten with nightsticks, and harassed by a throng of police officers. Witnesses say there was no cause for the assaults and the subsequent arrests following the melee.

Approximately 21 marked police vehicles arrived at The Critical Resistance office 968 Atlantic Avenue, the location of the fundraising event, at around 2AM, to investigate an officer's report of someone standing outside the party allegedly holding an "open container." Within minutes, the police unleashed their wave of violence onto the crowd, provoking onlookers and beating down attendees who were not resisting their orders. Over 20 people were experiencing effects of the pepper spray that was erratically sprayed into the air by the officers. The officers were also

attempting to take the event sign-in sheet.

All tenants of the private, residential building were present at the event, did not request police assistance, and no one in the building placed a complaint with the precinct or the emergency response system. Witnesses report that no warrant was presented upon police entrance. Organizers responded peacefully to police threats and physical provocation, and cooperated with police.

"I was stunned at the severity of the attack, and I am genuinely concerned for the safety and well-being of those who were unfairly detained and arrested," said witness at the scene of the incident.

Legal council at the scene confirmed that at least 8 arrests were made. Preliminary charges include assault, inciting a riot, and resisting arrest. The 77th Precinct, which is where the arrestees were initially held, has been unwilling to provide even the smallest informa-

tion about the status of those arrested. EMS visited the precinct to attend to those who sustained serious injuries, which include bruised ribs, a spinal injury, and sever blows to the head.

Critical Resistance is a national grassroots group that focuses on prisons and police brutality, and challenges the belief that policing, surveillance, imprisonment, and similar forms of control make our communities safer.

BREAK IN AT MUMIA OFFICE

November 20, 2003 -- The 4601 Market Street public office of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFFMAJ) in West Philadelphia was broken into in an apparent political burglary resulting in the theft of computers, files, and data bases.

No items of monetary value other than computers appear to have been taken, and it is clear that the intention of this action was in part to obtain documents and databases used in the international movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal by people who wish to stop it. ICFFMAJ experienced a similar break in at the same office in the summer of 2000, when lists of financial donors were stolen from the office, although no other items of value were missing. The break-in is a strong reminder that COINTELPRO-like programs are very much alive and well. Political organizations in Philadelphia should take note of this most recent break-in and be especially careful.

Iraq slideshow available

In August and September the Committee to End the Occupation organized a series of slide presentations that featuring 30 or so photos to address some of the central issues of the war. We now have a digital version available with a Powerpoint presentation on CD. The 200+ slides use news photos with accompanying text to focus on the effects of the US invasion on the people of Iraq. It is designed to challenge some of the ongoing war propaganda and misinformation promoted by US politicians and media. When we give the presentation we narrate the slides for about 40 minutes and then open the floor for contributions and debate.

The CD can be viewed with a personal computer with Powerpoint. (The program is included on Office 2000 and more recent Windows operating systems). Using computer projection equipment the presentation can be shown to groups. (This technology is increasingly available in schools and institutions) The digital version is available for a contribution covering mailing expenses.

For more information: endsanctions@cs.com

Thessaloniki 7 Freed



More than five months after the EU summit in Thessaloniki, 7 people incarcerated within the Greek prison system - Simon Chapman (English), Fernando Perez Gorraiz (Spanish), Carlos Martin Martinez (Spanish), Souleiman "Kastro" Dakduk (Syrian), Spyros Tsitsas (Greek) and two Greek juveniles - have finally been released pending trial. Despite overwhelming evidence that they have been framed and despite solidarity protests around the world, this occurred after approximately 2 months of hunger strikes by 5 of the prisoners, all of whom where looking at severe health problems and imminent death.

Last June's European Unit summit, was met with protests and mass direct action opposing the neoliberal capitalist reformation of Europe. While Europe's elite met under heavy police protection, hundreds of thousands of anti-capi-

talists from across Europe took over the city's streets, many of whom took to active engagement with repressive police. Those arrested during the summit, endured severe beatings on the hands of the police. Simon Chapman (in photo) was framed after a severe beating in

plain view of rolling news cameras who documented police switching his blue bag with a black one shown to contain Molotov cocktails. Kastro, the Syrian prisoner faced deportation following his arrest. He had come to Greece as a political refugee from Syria where he faced certain political prosecution and possible execution upon deportation back home.

The repression of the anti-EU demonstrators and the hunger strikes resulted in massive support from anti-capitalists and human rights activists across Europe, including a recent 15,000 strong solidarity protest in Thessaloniki and the occupation of a University to demand their freedom. Across Europe solidarity actions and hunger strikes targeted at Greek Embassys and functions; it was no doubt this outpouring of global solidarity that saved the lives and freedom of our comrades!

For more info check out the Thessaloniki Prisoner Support page at : <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2003/09/278180.html#solact>

Greg Smith, HIV-Positive Political Prisoner Dies in Prison

Gregory Dean Smith, noted New Jersey HIV-positive political prisoner, dies at age 40. Gregory Dean Smith, 40, died at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton, New Jersey on Monday, November 10, 2003. When he died, Greg was in the custody of the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Smith was an openly gay, African American AIDS activist who had many supporters and friends within the AIDS movement. His incarceration was a source of outrage for AIDS activists across the country; AIDS hysteria and AIDS bigotry resulted in an unjust prison sentence for Greg Smith, and in his unnecessary death.

1990 CONVICTION

Smith was charged with attempted murder, assault, and terroristic threats following an incident in which he allegedly bit and spat on guards at the Camden County jail in June 1989.

Smith had been an activist on HIV issues at the Camden jail while serving time on a burglary conviction, writing to local newspapers about poor medical care at the facility. He was well-informed about the nature of HIV and its transmission. He contended at his trial that he knew that HIV could not be transmitted through biting, and that he never bit or spat at the officers.

Smith claimed that a laceration on Officer Albert Waddington's hand was caused by his handcuffs. No bite analysis was ever made of the wound.

The jury convicted Smith of attempted murder, aggravated assault, and terroristic threats. The presiding judge, Hon. John Mariano, imposed the maximum sentence: 25 years, with a 12 and-a-half year block on parole eligibility.

After the sentence was read, Smith told the court, "I never bit an officer, and I'll say that until the day I die. I may die in the next year or two, but I'll die proud. I told the truth."

After the sentencing hearing, advocate Judy Greenspan addressed reporters: "The court did not consider the medical evidence, and the sentence sends absolutely the wrong message. The defendant was not sentenced to more than 20 years in prison for biting or because of his prior prison record, but for having the AIDS virus."

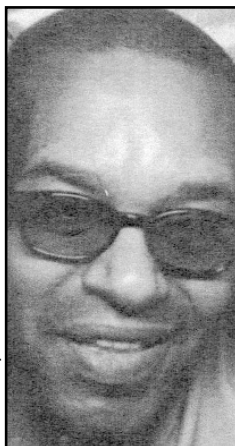
Smith's case was an early example of institutionalized bigotry directed at HIV positive people, and the extreme criminalization of potential HIV exposures that carry no appreciable risk of infection.

LEGAL APPEALS

Cases similar to Smith's were heard in several states in the late 1980s and early 1990s. While at least one similar case in Alabama was reversed on appeal (Brock v. State, 555 So.2d 285), Greg lost his 1992 appeal, in which he was represented by civil rights attorney Bill Kunstler. A subsequent petition to the New Jersey Supreme Court was rejected.

CONTINUED ACTIVISM

Smith spent the next 13 years in prison, and kept up his activism. He worked to provide inmates with access to HIV prevention and treatment information, he was out about his HIV status and his sexual orientation despite risks to his safety, he held many jobs, he wrote a regular newsletter for inmates and others about prison and HIV issues, he sustained the loss of both of his parents, and he tried to stay as healthy as possible in prison. Smith's supporters stayed in close touch with him, and advocated with the Department of Corrections on his behalf. His first chance at parole, in 2002, was denied.



INTENSIVE CARE

On October 26th, Smith was transferred from Northern State Prison in Newark to the Intensive Care Unit at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton. He was suffering from a number of serious conditions, including bacterial meningitis, sepsis, and cirrhosis of the liver. Smith never regained consciousness, and died on Monday, November 10th.

His death, like his life, has become rallying point for AIDS activists. They say that he may not have received the accepted standard of care for the infections he suffered at the time of his death. They are seeking an autopsy, and access to Smith's medical records.

"The criminalization of HIV has not abated," said Judy Greenspan, "Greg should never have done any time for such an AIDS-phobic conviction." Asia Russell of ACT UP Philadelphia said, "Greg did not have to die. AIDS bigotry and hysteria took his freedom, and now medical neglect has killed him."

Care for HIV-positive prisoners in the New Jersey Department of Corrections is subject to a court-ordered consent decree in a decade-old case, Roe v. Fauver.

DONATIONS

856-365-2966 Donations towards the cost of burial and continued legal support are vital at this time. You can make an immediate donation on the ACT UP Philadelphia webpage: www.critpath.org/actup using the secure server. Put "Greg Smith" in the memo line of your donation. Checks made out to ACT UP Philadelphia can be mailed to: PO Box 22439, Philadelphia PA 19110-2439; however, please also email jdaids@critpath.org with the amount of the check so we can inform Greg's family of the total resources available. Card of condolence can be sent to Greg's brother and sister-in-law: Gerald and Margo Smith 149 Ablett Village Camden NJ 08105

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride

by Loretto Aguilar

Immigrants have always been at the core of social movements in the United States. Just as the recently arrived Europeans at the beginning of the nineteenth century formed the labor movement that won the weekend; the new wave of recent immigrants are revitalizing struggles everywhere they go.

From bravely fought battles for workplace rights to community organizing they find themselves at the heart of these struggles. The core of immigrant struggles however, is the most basic human right; the right to exist within these borders of what is called the United States.

Coming from basically anywhere on the planet; from far away across oceans or simply migrating north following the path to economic survival, most of these immigrants have been

displaced and are refugees of bloody civil wars, political persecution or devastated national economies. Ironically, they migrate to the centers of political and economic power that started the trouble in their places of origin in the first place.

Despite this fact, the third wave of immigrants, the largest one in recent years, is not being welcomed with open arms. Their origin and skin color might be an issue, there are more people coming from "third world" countries than from economic superpowers. They speak non-European languages and practice non-Christian religions. Wherever they go they are forced to adapt and lose some of their culture but at the same time influence their surroundings with color and tastes.

As Mexicans that have crossed the border illegally would put it in a quasi cultural mantra: aqui estamos y no nos vamos, y si nos echan, nos regresamos! (Here we are now to stay, if you kick us out we'll come back!)

Immigrants are showing that they have the ability and the skills to organize themselves, because for them it is a matter of survival. Being used to worse, it seems natural and essential to build networks across different cultures and the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride was a perfect occasion for doing so.

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride was sponsored and initiated by the AFL-CIO, who recently changed its policies about immigration only three years ago.

According to the organizers, about 100,000 people gathered on October 4th for the rally in Flushing Meadows in Queens, New York. Immigrant workers and supporters celebrated the Caravan for Freedom and the successful day of lobbying in Washington two days before; which most likely will result in the passage of a bill that would allow immigrant students to access higher education. It is only a small victory in a long list of battles for family reunification, labor protections for all workers and a new legalization



process, but a start.

The Caravan parted from ten different cities: Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Houston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Miami, Las Vegas and Portland Oregon. Where immigrant communities have been active in organizing themselves for more rights, following the struggle for Civil Rights in the south from the 60's as a reference.

In one incident a bus the riders were traveling with was stopped by the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Services). The Riders refused to give their names and finally after public uproar through faxes and phone calls they were allowed to continue.

But by then it was too late for the INS to stop the process; immigrants are refusing to hide clandestinely and to be isolated in a subculture that denies them the most basic human rights. We will be witnesses in the next decade of the birth of a movement of resistance against oblivion. Perhaps that birth happened last October right in front of our eyes with the cry of ¡aquí estamos!

LATE TERM ABORTION BAN

by abbey crash

Even in the midst of ongoing guerilla warfare in Iraq, Bush has managed to make time to sign a bill into law that effectively gives women's health care a slap in the face. On November 5th Bush banned a form of late term abortion known by the anti-choice movement as "partial birth termination". In reality, it is a procedure called dilation and extraction. Dilation and extraction is a rare procedure where the fetus is partially delivered before the pregnancy is terminated. This procedure is usually performed late in the second trimester when the life or health of the woman is at risk. The federal ban on this abortion makes no stipulation for the health or future fertility of the woman. Any doctor found performing this type of abortion now faces up to two years in jail. The banning of this rarely done procedure serves as a sure step backward in the already lacking world of women's health. It is an obvious and ominous inauguration to Bush's anti-choice agenda. Unfortunately it is most surely just the first step.

The bill has not gone unchallenged. Within an hour of the legislation being signed, a federal judge in Nebraska issued a temporary restraining order against the new law. This block covers four doctors and their staffs (together licensed in thirteen states). The next day, a NY federal judge, Richard Casey (encouraged by seven doctors and the national abortion federation) and a San Francisco judge joined him in dissent. The NY ruling could have wide repercussions since its members perform half of the nation's total abortions. The ruling

by the California judge affects doctors who work at 900 Planned Parenthood clinics worldwide. The three rulings together cover a majority of the abortion providers in the U.S. The rulings temporarily prevent enforcement of the ban until a challenge to the constitutionality of the law can be heard.

If abortion were freely accessible and affordable for all women-including women of color, youth, those with low or no income, queer and transgendered women, those who live in rural areas, rape survivors, the incarcerated etc.-then why would anyone choose to have a late abortion? Abortion isn't a pleasant thing; nobody likes having one. The more time that elapses during a pregnancy, the more painful and the more expensive the termination procedure. Many times those that have late term abortions do so out of necessity: once they have managed to raise the money for both travel expenses to the nearest clinic and for the procedure itself, for instance. The fact of the matter is that these everyday realities of lack of accessibility and affordability already play a large part in determining just who is able to get adequate health care in this country. Abortion is a right, just as prenatal and childcare should be a right, just like free and easy access to contraceptives and information



about our bodies should be a right.

While I do believe that there needs to be more of a commitment to D.I.Y. health sharing, I know that presently the current disparities due to race and class and the binary definitions of gender in this country do not make for a level playing field. Having the time to seek out alternative health options (such as herbology, menstrual extraction*, etc.) to legal abortion requires a certain level of privilege. We cannot depend forever on the government to protect those laws that secure our rights but for the meantime we must do everything we can to make sure that abortion remains a legal option, while fighting to make it accessible for all women. At the same time we must work to develop ways to make those alternatives that give us control over our own bodies and lives more viable for all women.

Bush is so stringently anti-choice that it even affects his decision making in the U.S.. take over of Iraq. When weapons dealer Jay Garner, who was appointed by Bush to head the reconstruction team in Iraq, was putting together a "peace building" team to "rebuild" the country we've succeeded in dismantling, he was told by Bush that the doctors sent in to restore medical services had to be anti-abortion. (Coincidentally, Garner is also the president of SY Coleman, which provides technical support for missile systems used during the

Iraq war...no conflict there). George W. will surely stop at nothing. He is systematically abolishing human rights with as much ease as he destroys countries. We have to be the ones to stop him.

*Menstrual extraction can be used in cases of very early low-risk pregnancy to perform abortions without anesthetics and with lower risk of infection and complications than the standard dilation-curettage procedure. The materials used to construct the airtight, hand operated suction device are easy to obtain through a laboratory or chemistry scientific catalogue. Although menstrual extraction can and has served as a form of abortion that women can do for each other (both in north america-particularly during the pre-Roe vs. Wade days & throughout latin america where abortion remains illegal everywhere except cuba, and in other countries where abortion is not legal) it is extremely important the training go beyond learning the rather simple technique and include; self-education of women's reproductive anatomy and function, the utilization of medical texts, consultation with medical personnel, etc. The risks, although rare, can be serious.

Some books: Policing the National Body-Race, Gender, and Criminalization Edited by Jael Silliman and Annannya Bhattacharjee
A Woman's Book of Choices-Abortion, Menstrual Extraction, RU-486 by Rebecca Chalker and Carol Downer (dated and not so inclusive. Still has some good info, though)

**SUNDAY APRIL 25TH 2004-
MARCH FOR FREEDOM OF
CHOICE-D.C.**

gentrification watch



by Paul Walker

On Monday, November 10 Jannie Blackwell's office held a Baltimore Avenue Roundtable to address concerns of various people in the community surrounding gentrification and the University City District's (UCD) use of Licensing and Inspection (L&I) to enforce it's standards for the Baltimore Avenue Commercial Corridor. The meeting was attended by an impressive array of city officials, from the heads of L&I, the Commerce Department, the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, the Health Department and the Police Department, to name a few. Also present were representatives of the UCD and Cedar Park Neighborhood Association. Absent were many of the faces seen daily on Baltimore Avenue. Alisa Orduna- Sneed, assistant to councilwoman Janie Blackwell, claimed a fire in their office as reason for the poor turnout. She didn't bother to explain the presence of all of those city officials, at least as busy and probably much harder to get a hold of than any Baltimore Avenue business owner.

Following short and self-congratulatory speeches from each of the department heads, the floor was

opened to discussion. Chris White, concerned neighbor and organizer for the Greater Baltimore Avenue Coalition voiced concerns about the UCD's use of L&I to enforce it's own undemocratic vision for Baltimore Avenue. After claiming to have been misquoted by the City Paper he went on to describe his confrontation with Eli Masser: "I had heard rumors that the L&I enforcement was coming from the UCD," he said regarding the recent spike in L&I visits on the western fringe of the Baltimore Avenue Corridor, "and when I hear rumors I investigate them. I saw Eli... and asked him if he had called L&I. He said yes, because 'legitimate businesses couldn't compete with businesses that were totally illegal.'" Though he seemed uncomfortable at the frankly leveled accusation, Masser did not (and to my knowledge has not) disputed the claim. Eric Goldstein, President of the UCD chose to paint these concerns as unfounded, referring instead to the UCD's successes: the trees and trashcans planted on some blocks of Baltimore Ave.

The meeting closed with a blunt question from a West African business owner: "What has the UCD ever done for the West African Community?" Couldn't we all ask the same question?

While the UCD looks great on paper and makes large claims they leave a lot to be desired on the ground. Their initiatives follow the logic of gentrification: smoothing the transition from ghetto grocery- and dollar-stores to upscale yuppie restaurants and boutiques.

10 Tips to Keep Property Speculators From Stealing Your Home

1. Keep your property taxes, water & sewer fees, gas & electric bills up to date. If you can't pay them when due, make payment arrangements.
2. If you can't make payment arrangements on utilities, you can generally get a 30-60 day freeze on collection action - for your residence only - by having your doctor complete an emergency medical form, available from each utility.
3. Check every notice you get from the city and your mortgage company for accuracy and respond immediately. If you don't you could lose important rights.
4. Never allow your real estate taxes to become more than \$1,500 delinquent.
5. Check the monthly Sheriff's Sales listings for properties in your community. Alert your neighbors. Call the Sheriff at 215-686-3535 to find which newspapers have the listings.
6. Even if you find that your home has been sold at Sheriff's Sale, you might have up to 1 year to get your home back, so don't give up too early.
7. If you are approached by anyone who wants to buy your home, immediately contact a quality realtor. Find out what your property is actually worth. **ALWAYS** get title insurance. It is the only thing that protects your investment if the seller doesn't really own the property.
9. Never let anyone into your home to inspect anything, unless you've called them yourself. It's hard for someone to file a claim on something they've never seen.
10. Don't trust anyone who shows up at your door or sends a letter regarding your real estate. Always get a professional's opinion. Share your info with neighbors.

* If you are over 60, you can receive free legal assistance by calling the Senior Law Center at 215-238-6390

* If you are low income, you can get free legal assistance by calling Community Legal Services at 215-981-3700

* Otherwise, you can get the name of a lawyer who specializes in "eminent domain" cases by calling Philadelphia Bar Association at 215-238-6333



Miami Ice*:-

The 'New' Military/Police State

By: Bronwyn Lepore

*You will ask: And where are the lilacs?
And the metaphysical blanket of poppies?
And the rain that often struck
your words filling them
with holes and birds?*

...
*You will ask: why does your poetry
not speak to us of sleep, of the leaves,
of the great volcanoes of your native
land?*

*Come and see the blood in the streets
come and see
the blood in the streets
come and see
the blood in the streets...*

*from Pablo Neruda's "I explain a
few things"*

*Possibility, seriously considered...is not
what with luck might happen. It is what
we can believe in enough to want, and
then, by active wanting, make
possible...After defeats and failures and
both within and after certain profound
disillusions, it is not recovery or return
but direct practical possibility...possibili-
ty as a different order, which no longer
from simple assumptions, or from known
discontents and negations...but on our
own responsibility, in an actual world, we
must prove.*

Raymond Williams

Miami, Florida November 20: FTAA (Free

Trade Area of the Americas) delegates meet in the Government Center on Biscayne Avenue while those opposed to the FTAA (see addendum for more info on the FTAA and why it's being opposed) are met on the streets with harassment, repression, beatings, tear gas and rubber bullets... Welcome to the new militarized police state. Costs: 8.5 million dollars, tacked on, with barely a bleat from the press, to the 87 billion for the "reconstruction" of an Iraq that the US military has basically bombed into oblivion, all part of the "War on Terror." Robocops suited up in fancy new 'heat-cooling' outfits, armed and eager to use their new toys: tazer guns, tear gas, big batons, stun guns, electrified shields, automatic and semi-automatic weapons. Undercovers roaming the streets in oil-guzzling SUV's. Embedded reporters in armored vehicles wearing police-issued combat helmets. Commander in charge: John Timoney, fascist Police Commissioner and all-around Pinkerton - you'll remember his mean-ugly mug from Philly during the Republican National Convention - so 'polite' on the street while ignoring basic civil rights; arresting and jailing everyone in sight to clear the city of dissent so the rich republicans could wine and dine and schmooze free of disruption; so brutal in the jails - all such pretense of 'civility' has disappeared completely in the new climate of anti-terrorism and the visibility of arrogance embodied in the current US government; that "we'll do whatever we want" "bring em on!" cowboy mentality. Let's not forget that Jeb Bush's Florida helped bring us the shrub. Late in the day of the 20th it felt like we were all Sara Connor; nowhere to run; nowhere to hide, from the omnipresent Terminator machines.

But... despite the terror and intimidation we were so much more beautiful, so much more colorful than them; the pagans dancing and

creating their auras of alternative power in the streets, drummers who didn't stop drumming through the tear-gas; street medics rushing bravely in to rescue the wounded, anti-sweatshop students, a huge steel-worker sporting a Che Guevara T-shirt guarding black-blockers while they threw makeshift barricades up against the oncoming attacks, green-hatted legal observers documenting, watching, indy-media folks videotaping and phoning in reports, the bright yellow shirts of the Root Cause contingent who marched a symbolic 34 (to represent the 34 nations affected by the FTAA) miles to Miami...

If only we'd had the coconuts: The Miami Herald of November 20 reported that "Miami Public Works employees spent the weekend climbing trees to rid the city of a potentially dangerous weapon - coconuts. Hundreds were removed from palms along Biscayne in case anti-FTAA protestors decided to use them as projectiles."

Notes from my legal observer pages...

7:15am...leaving the welcome/convergence center at 2300 Miami with large group of anti-capitalists to start the 20 block walk to the carefully, obscenely - there are fucking tanks in the streets - guarded fence-surrounded Government Center to protest the FTAA ministerial happening inside...about 30 bike cops visible up ahead...7:20...about 100 cops on foot/bikes approaching...we turn...more cops...7:50...lots more cops...riot cops...maybe 400...cops in train tower pointing guns...cop cars...turn again...van carrying

puppets stopped, driver handcuffed, puppets detained...lots more riot cops...a fuckwing of cop cars heading down 5th St... cops with tazers moving forward...cops corralling activists in front of Miami Dade Police Headquarters...we've been out on the street for less than an hour...

Later that day...from Rights Action report "Urgent Action and Summary of Police Brutality at FTAA Protests":
"At approximately 4:20 PM...as union members, students, human rights and economic justice activists, religious leaders and other concerned citizens meandered in the open space in front of the permitted rally, they were attacked without warning in a violent display of police brutality. Police officers dressed in riot gear used batons, wooden poles, concussion grenades, tear gas, pepper spray, rubber, wooden and plastic bullets and other chemical agents against the protestors indiscriminately."

4:50 PM...keeping up with a group of about 20 activists trying to disperse...30 or so riot cops dressed in brown riot gear wielding huge batons come tearing around the corner at full speed yelling "get em, get em"...my legal partner grabs me and pulls me into a kitchen supply shop, where we are given refuge by the Nicaraguan owner while gangs of cops encircle the neighborhood...every so often, a local neighborhood inhabitant peers out around a corner and gives activists the all clear...cab-bies pick up protestors and help them get away...it grows dark and we head back out on the street...the convergence center is surrounded by about 50 cop cars and the ever-present helicopters beaming their searchlights down...we head the other way...like hunted animals we feel our way through the night... 6:50pm...Somehow we end up back in the belly of Biscayne (where we hear that the FTAA meetings are packing in a day early and that resistance from trade reps from the Global South, where people have had enough of corporatizing and privatization and have angrily told their 'leaders' so has stemmed the tide a bit; "The more control the US trade reps lost at the negotiating table, the more raw power the police exerted on the streets" Naomi Klein) where we run into friends who are staying at a hotel on the street to do "eye in the

What is the FTAA?

The FTAA is basically a tool that large corporations can use to make more profit at the expense of working people and the natural environment. The FTAA is an expansion of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreements) to include all the countries of North and South America and the Caribbean (except Cuba). The FTAA would effect over 800 million people throughout the Americas. It would set up rules that make it easy for companies to challenge laws and regulations intended to protect people and nature. Clean air and water laws, minimum wage laws, worker safety laws, laws protecting communities from toxic waste--all these protect people but make it harder for corporations to make a profit. The FTAA would allow corporations to challenge, and essentially overturn, laws created by governments if those laws get in the way of corporate profit. (from "FTAA: Expanding the Empire" a project of FTAAIMC.org)

For more info on the FTAA check out www.stoptheftaa.org, www.ftaaresistance.ca, www.therootcause.org, and www.ftaaimc.org.

continued on page 14 **PAGE 5**

How Militant Civil Disobedience Brought Down the Bolivian Government

by Jeff McClelland

"La protesta es una mujer de fierro sin partido ni caudillo"

Teeming with tens of thousands of angry protesters and shaking from the resounding blasts of dynamite, the streets of La Paz on October 18th were the scene of a dramatic climax to the past 6 weeks of mounting protests. Multiple marches had descended from the neighboring city of El Alto. More than ten thousand miners and campesinos had arrived from rural areas and neighboring states. And earlier that morning the amas de casa (the housewives of La Paz) had come out onto the streets in mass giving their support to the protests. The universal demand was nothing less than the resignation of Bolivia's president, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada. Meanwhile, the president - isolated and trapped inside the presidential residence under heavy military protection in a wealthy neighborhood of La Paz - was making phone calls to the US. Around 5 o'clock that afternoon, the rescue mission was launched. A helicopter picked up President Sanchez, his family and few remaining ministers in a field near the residence and dropped them off in an airport, where a plane was waiting to take them to the United States.

Once in the United States, Sanchez would claim that the popular uprising that led to his resignation was actually a plot to overthrow democracy in Bolivia, financed by an international cartel, and carried out by drug traffickers, narco-syndicalists and the country's political opposition leaders. His ridiculous story was clearly intended to appeal to Washington's purported political agenda for the Andean countries of South America - the defense of democracy and the eradication of the coca leaf. Yet, not surprisingly, he turned everything upside down. The uprising in Bolivia was actually organized from the bottom up, with autonomous groups primarily made up of poor indigenous people carrying out militant civil disobedience. Over a period of 6 weeks, a few isolated protests turned into a mass uprising that left over 80 people dead (all but a few killed by the army or the police) and 400 people wounded. Armed with sticks and stones, the protesters resisted tear gas, army tanks, machine gun fire and even fighter jet planes to slowly bring the country to a standstill. Their unceasing and mounting pressure succeeded in ousting the president within the legal bounds of the Bolivian democracy. While the uprising was truly nation-wide in scope, transcending ethnicity and class, there were two main groups that instigated the protests and were crucial to its success. The first group consisted of indigenous campesinos living in the rural areas around La Paz. And the second group consisted of the indigenous habitants in the city of El Alto.

The revolt against Goniism While he was in power, the United States couldn't

have invented a better puppet than Goni (the president's nickname) to help secure their interests in South America. A millionaire businessman raised in the United States, Goni had already served one term in the presidency from the years 1993-1997, and had just been re-elected by a popular vote of 22% last year to a term ending in 2007. Back in 1986 he helped transform the Bolivian state supported economy into a neo-liberal based one, privatizing key industries such as oil, water, communications, mining and train transportation. As president he oversaw the selling of gas rights to transnationals for near give away prices. Then, against heavy opposition from the Coca leaf harvesters who see their only source of livelihood being taken away from them, Goni kowtowed to Washington in implementing an unpopular coca eradication program. Just 6 months ago, under pressure from the IMF, he introduced very unpopular austerity measures.

Consistently, he has worked on behalf of the US and IMF in securing their interests at the expense of the needs of the people. In the past 17 years of privatization, Bolivia has seen its standard of living drop and the gap between rich and poor widen. Approximately two thirds of the population is indigenous and they earn substantially less than the mestizos (mixed race) and whites. Indigenous campesinos (poor farmers who barely subsist on small patches of land) are the poorest, earning roughly 15 cents a day.

The past 17 years of privatization has not passed unchallenged in Bolivia. However, the opposition in Bolivia has long been divided, with the leaders often fighting amongst themselves. This in-house fighting along with the competing demands of the different sectors has historically weakened the left and made it easier for the government to divide it. When the protests started in early September, the demands (though thread together by a popular opposition to the Government's neo-liberal policies) varied among the different groups and touched on multiply issues, ranging from regional to national. However, as the protests gained steam, one demand caught fire and became a lightning rod that helped unite the different sectors. This demand was that Bolivian natural gas not be sold to the US.

The opposition to selling Bolivian gas to the States taps deep into the psyche of Bolivians for historical reasons. Starting with the Spanish conquistadores in the 16th century, Bolivia has seen its abundant natural resources stripped by colonizers, rich countries, and most recently by transnationals. Gas is the latest bonanza along a long line of now near-exhausted resources that include silver, tin, copper, uranium, and timber. It's estimated that Bolivia's oil and gas reserves total more than those of any other South American country including those of Venezuela. Yet despite the abundance of its rich natural resources,

Bolivia has never been able to develop or profit from them.

The most staggering example is the famous and tremendously rich Bolivian silver mine of Potosi, whose silver was carried off by Spanish ships in the early centuries of the American conquest and which almost single-handedly sustained the Spanish Empire for more than two centuries without the people benefiting a bit. Historically, just like most third world countries, Bolivia's economy has been based on selling raw materials to other richer countries rather than developing the resources into finished products themselves, thereby forcing the country to import these very products at high prices. The rallying cry has been "Gas for all Bolivians!" The protesters want to see the gas industrialized in Bolivia and converted into usable and more profitable forms such as in gasoline, plastics and fertilizers - finished products that Bolivia currently needs to import. However, the US also wants this gas in its cheap raw form and Goni had already agreed to this sale, claiming that the country needed an immediate infusion of capital. Not surprisingly, the negotiations between the US and the Bolivian Government over the gas had been carried out behind closed doors. In fact before the protests started in August, there had been very little public discussion or media coverage over this issue. But that was soon to change.

The campesinos take to the highways The protests started off with a murmur back in the first week of September when campesinos started blockading highways outside of La Paz and another 2000 began a hunger strike. Historically, the blockading of highways has been the tool of protest among the campesinos. Because there is often only one possible road connecting two points on the map, it is an incredibly effective strategy. Blocking the roads with numbers of 20 up to 200 people, the campesinos can prevent the transit of passengers and products. Consequently, by the end of the second week of August, the blockades were already having a noticeable effect on La Paz. Products weren't reaching their destinations, produce was rotting in the stalled trucks, tourists were complaining and people were stranded from their homes. Initially, the army avoided confronting the blockaders. The campesinos had stated that they would resist any military aggression and blood had been spilled in similar confrontations in the past. Maybe the campesinos would have tired out if the Bolivian government had tried waiting it out. Or even agreed to dialogue. But instead Greenlee, the American ambassador, stepped into the picture. And like most cases of American foreign intervention, things just got worse.

Surrounded by some of the most militant campesino communities in Bolivia, Sorata is a sleepy tourist town located 100 miles outside of La Paz. An annual festival had drawn some

one thousand people (among them 200 gringos) to Sorata for the weekend of September 13th and 14th. By early morning the following Monday, the campesinos in the nearby town of Warisata had blockaded the only road out of Sorata. The people had been trapped there for 5 days when Greenlee approached Goni and "convinced" him of the need to rescue the "hostages". The following day, September 20th, a military convey of over 20 vehicles loaded with soldiers and sharpshooters left La Paz. With support from jet planes and helicopters, it broke through the blockade, loaded up the stranded people in Sorata and turned around to return to La Paz. It's not clear who shot first, but this time as they were passing through the blockade, shooting broke out and six campesinos (apparently some if not all of them unarmed) were killed along with an army conscript. Hours later enraged campesinos stormed into Sorata and burned down both a government municipal building and the fancy hotel of an unpopular foreigner. The Government's violent assault on the blockaders ignited an already simmering rage throughout the campesino communities and further radicalized the campesinos. The demand that Bolivian gas not be exported to the US had now turned into the major demand. In the more militant communities, campesinos were now beginning to talk of a civil war.

By the end of August, food shortages were becoming apparent in La Paz and prices were rising. Blockades were multiplying in the rural areas outside of La Paz. Of the roughly eight highways entering La Paz, half of them were permanently blocked and the rest were being intermittently blocked. Tensions were running high on these roads as the armed forces were challenging certain blockades - yet with little success. In addition to blocking the roads with their bodies, the campesinos were also strewing the road with thousands of rocks and boulders. This strategy was extremely effective as no 4-wheel vehicle can pass over a road full of rocks. The army would send out an army troop with a bulldozer to clean the road; meanwhile campesinos would gather in other stretches of the road and clog them up with more rocks. Campesinos were also using dynamite to carve out wide trenches in the roads rendering them impassable. By mid-October, stores in La Paz were running empty, prices for the scarce goods remaining had doubled and tripled, and restaurants were closing for lack of food and gas. But by this time, the rural area was no longer the battle ground. The war had moved to El Alto.

El Alto rises up El Alto is the sister city of La Paz. With a population of around 1 million, it is said to be both the fastest growing city of South America and the poorest. Poor

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"there are these folks for whom openness is not about the luxury of, 'will I choose to share this or that,' but rather, 'will I survive - will I stay alive?' and openness is about how to be well & telling the truth is about how to put the broken bits & pieces of the heart back together again It is about being whole being wholehearted.."
-bell hooks

The Beginning of an Anarchist People of Color Movement

by dandylyon

Several weeks back, I tabled for this really great show in West Philadelphia. I had been told that it was going to be a rock show put on by and for people of color and that bands were performing mainly to raise funds for the first ever Anarchist People of Color Conference happening a short while from then. It was one of the best shows that I've been to in Philadelphia. To see other people who looked like me, had been through similar struggles in life, at a grunge/punk rock show in Philly was fucking unbelievable. Something my heart had always privately yearned for had finally manifested. Dope.

On the first weekend of October this year I, along with a handful of other young activists my age, headed out to Detroit, Michigan to be a part of the first ever national gathering of people who supported radical voices in communities of color. In my mind I had my hopes as well as a well-endowed curiosity for what an event like this would look like. From the moment we stepped on the campus of Wayne State University where the conference was to be held, I felt a rush of anticipation seeing people piling into the same room to register and get name tags. Let me just give a personal testimony to the fact that every face in the room shone with an amazing amount of spirit and radiance....it was such a pleasurable sight. My anticipation pretty much kept getting bigger with the duration of that splendid weekend.

Day one of the APOC Conference allowed a time for people to introduce themselves to each other and to also create safe spaces for each other to openly dialogue about whatever

they chose to put on the table to be discussed. Generations of womyn of color came together in an almost "political rights of passage." Reinforcement was given to some major questions that linked most if not all of our struggles together. Particularly one memorable moment in the weekend was during an amazing showing and open discussion of the documentary "AfroPunk....the rock and roll nigga.." The first film ever made documenting the Black punk experience, featuring the ever amazing punk band Cypher. A room of at least fifty radical activists of color sitting together at this beautiful event was, believe it or not, just.... well...ya kinda had ta be there. That evening it was time to stuff our faces with good food and let loose at an unexpected party at a local coop that was putting some out of town apocs up for the weekend. I don't think that I need to say anything extra about the mere fact that I was lucky enough to be at a party with a bunch of (should I say it again?....) people of color (yes, more than three),

dancing and jumping around to both hip-hop and punk music and yes... there was even a mosh pit on the makeshift stage.

By the third day, my face was soaked in tears and sweat from obvious suffrage that I knew in my heart I had already dedicated my life to. A safe space was made available by everyone there. Our male comrades were very interested in making sure that most of our discussion floors were made open to womyn's voices. There were even people volunteering to be security for us as we had our workshops. Something interesting happened after the workshops on the third day. After hiding in the bathroom for about 15 minutes, needing a chance to be alone and process the intensity of our conversations (which had been ongoing all weekend), another conference attendee and I decided to walk off the campus for a little while. We'd all been on or around the campus of Wayne State for two days with little time for site seeing. Not more than two blocks away we ran across what seems like a cool punk store that seems inviting. Little did we know that we were going to be bombarded with a slew of racist questions from some crazy bald headed white dude that claimed he was the store owner. Having to speak to someone who referred to African Americans as "the blacks" is not my idea of a constructive conversation. We tried to leave though the guy did attempt to make it difficult for us to do so. We knew after that (and the old men on the sidewalk hollering for us to come over and sit with them) that yes there was still a lot of work for us as womyn of color to do.

For two days open discussions were held concerning topics ranging from protesting the FTAA Miami Ministerial, copwatch, gentrification, sexism, homophobia, alternative living and immigration laws to things like Black

punk culture and independent radio and community organizing. For one weekend we were able to lean on each other with the shit that we usually carry alone. What an anarchist people of color movement means to me is the action of a people speaking out about the shit that so many out there are afraid or are too oppressed to confront in the public eye. This conference gave people the opportunity to see others in the same light. People left with new friends, potential project partners, and an additional sense of a movement growing. We all departed the campus with a refreshed sense of enthusiasm and optimism for the work we all knew that we had ahead of us. We all walked off that campus heads high towards our own paths to revolutionary struggle.

After the conference I went home. I went back to the strug-

gles of my everyday life as a Black radical queer female from the streets of North Philadelphia. I went back to the reality that gentrification is eating away at my people's lives. Several people who attended the conference would agree that there remained a small fear that the spirit of the conference would not sustain in its entire strength until another national gathering was planned for 2004. In order to keep the spirit of any movement growing, there definitely needs to be reinforcement. Plans for an East Coast and West Coast APOC conference (smaller versions of the national one) are already underway in plans for the next few months. We as anti-authoritarian people of color need safe spaces. We need to have safe spaces to heal, to dialogue, to be ourselves and feel the commonality and community with people who share our struggles.

It has been about two months since the first ever Anarchist People of Color Conference in Detroit. Two months, and already some of the most beautiful people that I have ever met in this life have been beaten by the police, harassed by the police, sexually assaulted while in custody, followed by the FBI, been put into the hospital by the police, treated as animals (yes, people were actually locked in dog cages), and just completely abused by the pigs in blue. Why is it, that after all these years of processing and progressing, that when we try to create an action that gives power back to the common people do we get beaten violently with weapons, smacked around by the flaming hands of oppression before we even get a chance to grow? Sounds like the average hip-hop song. And it smells like a fear of change to me. An activist by the name of Piper Anderson, like myself, is also a native of North Philadelphia. She is employed as a youth counselor at a community center in Harlem. We met at the conference in Detroit. The one sister that I met from my very own neighborhood, my age and who shared many

of the same views as me was attacked at a party in NYC recently. She was one of eight people arrested, interrogated and abused by NYPD on the weekend of November 16th, 2003 for the mere fact that they were present at an "anarchist" event. It was a show. It was a show with music, with a political theme, by and for people of color.

Here is an excerpt from a recent public announcement from the Critical Resistance office in NYC:

"With the unprovoked attack on our space, law enforcement has proven that it is engaged in a campaign to terrorize communities of color - particularly those revolutionary activists, organizers and cultural workers that seek create spaces of resistance and rebellion."

"In the early morning hours of November 16, 2003, the NYPD engaged in a violent

attack on a benefit party hosted at the Critical Resistance space in Brooklyn, New York for the 1st Anarchist People of Color (APOC) conference.

Approximately 20 unmarked police cruisers arrived around 2am in response to an officer's report of someone standing outside the party allegedly holding an "open container." Throngs of police indiscriminately sprayed chemical agents, beat people with nightsticks, punched, shoved, kicked and dragged along sidewalks. Police refused to produce proper identification. At least one camera used to record the incident was confiscated and/or destroyed. People suffered various injuries, from transgender harassment to blunt trauma, lacerations, contusions and lower back spasms. One person was treated for a hematoma on his right frontal skull. Eight people were arrested on charges including inciting a riot, obstruction of governmental administration, resisting arrest, and disorderly conduct. All eight were released on their own recognizance during the early morning hours of November 17th. Arrestees were given a return court date of December 18th, 2003." www.criticalresistance.org

Not to mention the fact that activists of color were singled out more than white activists (who took a lot of harassment as well) at the recent protests of the FTAA Ministerial in Miami, Florida this past November. For more information about the FTAA protests, please refer to www.phillyimc.org APOC testimony: "The conference to me was a space that had never happened in my existence and one that definitely needed to. What upsets me most was the fact that the movement was a safe entity that was met with so much violence. We (anarchist-minded people) need to restructure our goals and organize more. The way things are right now, anarchist voices in general are getting a lot of heat."

There is definitely more heat to come in the next coming months prior to the presidential election in 2004. People of color

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They'll Never Silence the Voice of Mumia Abu-Jamal talks about the BPP, Corporate V

by Hans Bennett .

At the age of 15, death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal was Minister of Information of the Philadelphia Black Panther Party. Later, he was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, and was president when he was incarcerated in 1981. As a Philadelphia journalist reporting on the city's murderous repression of the MOVE organization, Mumia continued to be a target of the Philadelphia authorities.

Following the City of Philadelphia's 1978 assault on MOVE's Powelton Village home, Mumia used a press conference to confront Mayor Frank Rizzo. Rizzo was enraged and issued a public threat while looking at Mumia, proclaiming: "The people believe what you write and what you say-and it's got to stop! One day-and I hope it's in my career-you're going to have to be held responsible and accountable for what you do." Recently declared an honorary citizen of Paris, France (the first time since Pablo Picasso was given that honor in the 70s), Mumia's support extends around the world.

From death row, Mumia has recorded radio-essays and written essays exposing US military aggression, the violence of poverty, white supremacy, and much more. His fourth book written from death row has just been released: Faith of Our Fathers: An Examination of the Spiritual Life of African and African American People. Mumia is a revolutionary public intellectual similar to others like Frantz Fanon, Walter Rodney, Angela Davis, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Antonio Gramsci, Emma Goldman, or Huey P. Newton. The incarceration and attempted execution is part of the state's overall attack on the public mind and democracy.

The attempt to execute Abu-Jamal is the ultimate form of state censorship. His journalism demonstrates the revolutionary potential of alternative media and the subsequent lengths to which the powers that be will go to censor those that threaten them.

Through a 1982 trial replete with both fabricated evidence as well as a denial of his constitutional right to represent himself, Mumia Abu-Jamal was framed for the murder of Daniel Faulkner. Other US revolutionaries have been framed the same way, Geronimo Ji Jaga (formerly Pratt) of the Los Angeles BPP was released after 27 years of imprisonment for a murder that the FBI knew he was innocent of. The FBI suppressed surveillance tapes proving he was at a BPP meeting in Oakland, CA the time of the LA murder.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a prisoner of this same war and should be immediately released.

State Supreme Court Blocks New Evidence On October 8, the Pennsylvania
PAGE 2 Supreme Court denied Mumia's

appeal of a lower state court decision that prevented him from entering new evidence into his federal appeal. Among the several rejected new statements from witnesses were those of Abu-Jamal himself (his first public account of Dec. 9, 1981), his brother William Cook, Arnold Beverly, and Terri Mauer-Carter.

In his statement, Abu-Jamal proclaims his innocence, saying that he was shot while crossing the street towards Faulkner and William Cook. Abu-Jamal recounts that he heard gun shots while sitting in his taxicab and after recognizing his brother, he left his taxi and headed across the street.

William Cook states that neither he, or his brother shot Faulkner. Rather, he says that while he didn't see the actual shooting, his business partner Ken Freeman (who Cook says was with him that night) later confessed to him that he was involved in Faulkner's murder.

Arnold Beverly states that in 1981 corrupt Philadelphia police hired him as a known mob hit man to kill Faulkner who was suspected of working with the FBI in their documented investigation of the Philadelphia PD for corruption. Recounting the night, Beverly states that he "ran across Locust Street and stood over Faulkner, who had fallen backwards on the sidewalk. I shot Faulkner in the face at close range. Jamal was shot shortly after that by a uniformed police officer that arrived on the scene."

Terri Mauer-Carter was working as a stenographer in the Philadelphia Court system on the eve of Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial when she states that she overheard judge Sabo say in reference to the Abu-Jamal case that he was going to help the prosecution "fry the nigger." In his new book on Abu-Jamal's case, Dave Lindorff interviews Mauer-Carter's boss, Richard Klein, who was with Mauer-Carter when she states she overheard Sabo. A Philadelphia Common Pleas Court judge at the time who now sits on PA's Superior Court, Klein told Lindorff: "I won't say it did happen, and I won't say it didn't. That was a long time ago." Lindorff considers Klein's refusal to firmly reject Mauer-Carter's claim to be an affirmation of her statement.

Philadelphia journalist and Temple University professor Linn Washington writes that "Sabo's biased pre-trial profession is yet another reason to grant Abu-Jamal a new trial based on judicial misconduct. The 'system' still refuses to repudiate Sabo's biased and ethically illegal actions...Sabo, for example, refused to allow Abu-Jamal's trial attorney to inform the jury that the prosecutor's two prime witnesses each had extensive criminal records and thus were candidates for pressure from police to lie. These witnesses were an arsonist on probation and driving a cab without a driver's license and a prostitute facing multiple court cases."

Because of the Oct. 8 decision, Mumia's case is now back in the federal courts. The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals will now consider appeals of the federal district court decision of December 2001 where Judge Yohn upheld Abu-Jamal's verdict of guilt (denying a new trial) but to somewhat overturned his death sentence. Because DA Lynne Abraham immediately appealed Yohn's decision, Mumia has never left death row (therefore unable to have full-contact visits with family) and faces the possibility that Abraham's appeal will be successful. While Abraham is appealing Yohn's overturning of the death penalty into one of life imprisonment, Abu-Jamal is appealing the affirmation of his guilty verdict.

If Judge Yohn's ruling on the death penalty is overturned, a new death date will be set for Mumia. But if Judge Yohn is upheld, Pennsylvania still has the option to impanel a new jury to rehear the penalty phase of Mumia's trial. This new jury could sentence Mumia to death and face the death penalty again, no matter which way the Circuit Court rules on the death penalty issue.

The Garlic Campaign In August.

Mumia reported an unexplained swelling, pain, and darkening in his feet. The ICFMAJ is "concerned about Mumia's condition in part because health conditions easily become magnified in prison conditions, where forced inactivity, social isolation, a poor diet and mental & emotional stress take their toll on a prisoner's health. Death due to neglect and misdiagnosis of illness in prison is common and is an unrecognized but effective 'death penalty' in US prisons."

The prison physician that examined him on Aug. 22 concluded that it was caused by overly tight cuffs on his sweatpants, that were cutting off circulation to his feet. Mumia and his supporters were not satisfied with this diagnosis. Given that he has still not been examined by an outside doctor of his choice or given the garlic he requested, supporters fought back. The prison authorities have been flooded with faxes, phone calls as well as cloves of garlic mailed to Mumia.

When Mumia wrote me on Sept.8, he said that while he doesn't really know what the problem is, he believes that it's healing. "Swelling is down, and discoloration is lessened, but I can't say definitively what happened; or why? I'm therefore thrilled that supporters have launched the 'garlic campaign,' and deeply appreciative too."

I spoke with Mumia on Aug.30, 2003.

Hans Bennett: The Black Panther Party long held a scathing critique of US foreign policy. How did your experience as a Panther shape your views on global politics?

Mumia Abu-Jamal: At an early stage in its development, the BPP became what was called a "revolutionary internationalist party," which meant that they looked to revolutionary anti-imperialist examples around the world. We looked to places like Cuba and the experience of the revolutionaries there like Che Guevara. Mao was very important. His red book was required reading. Frantz Fanon was also very influential. While Fanon was of West Indian heritage, he became very active in the Algerian Revolution. Because we considered ourselves internationalists, we began to look at the world from a deeper perspective than most people that considered themselves black nationalists as well as many others on the left at the time.

HB: What did the Panthers believe was the motive for US foreign policy?

MAJ: I remember very early in the party's history, an article in the BPP paper by George Murray, (the former Minister of Education and an instructor at San Francisco State University). He set forth the real basis for the US intervention and occupation in Vietnam. He explained that the US capitalists were in search of raw materials that existed in Vietnam like bauxite, which is used to make aluminum and that car companies used to make bumpers, and so on. This was a very powerful argument-particularly when you think about what is happening today in Iraq. People of the so-called right claim that the US is entering Iraq to promote democracy and get rid of a dictator. It's far more reasonable if you understand US history-especially with the Vietnam situation-that the rulers are interested in oil as a natural resource; as an economic bulwark against the loss of this resource. That's more probable than the claim about democracy and the anti-dictator stance that the state has used. When you have some inkling of US history, you understand that for all intents and purposes, there's never been a dictator that the Americans didn't like, especially when they are one of the many doing the US' bidding.

HB: Many today are criticizing George Bush and his foreign policy. Today it would seem Clinton has been able to kill more Iraqi children with his sanctions than both Pres. Bush's have been able to do combined. Furthermore Clinton named an illegal bombing attack on Iraq in late 1998 "Operation Desert Fox" after a famous WWII Nazi general (obviously much admired by the US ruling class). How do you think relations with Iraq would be different today if Gore was President instead of Bush?

MAJ: Some may disagree with me but I do believe that the difference would probably be one of degree and not of substance. As you were mentioning about the sanctions, Clinton did wage a low-intensity war all throughout his term, that probably resulted in more Iraqi deaths

f the Voiceless: Wars, And More

-we're here making an assumption because we don't really know how many Iraqis have died in the recent war. For the better part of a decade (certainly during the 8 years of the Clinton administration) the US and Britain (as well as most of the west when you think about it) waged a kind of sanctions war on Iraq that denied Iraqi citizens , not the Iraqi government, access to much needed medicines and other things that children, old people, and women, again average citizens could not have access to. The economic impact is also almost unheard of-certainly in this part of the world-but hundreds of thousands of children have lost their lives over that period of time.

HB: So in terms of hurting the Iraqi people, the democrats aren't much better?

MAJ: Well, that's my impression and the more I study it and look at what people have said in previous generations, I keep coming back to that conclusion. The great internationalist and Pan-Africanist WEB DuBois spoke similarly about those things way back in the 1930s when he criticized the Democrats and the Republicans. He was one who at a very early stage in US history talked about the development of a labor party or the support of a socialist party in the US. That was quite unpopular and he got tossed out of the NAACP because he was so radical, but he was a very insightful and honest and deeply thinking radical of his time. I'm looking at something in

fact that he wrote in the organ of the NAACP: The Crisis. He wrote it in 1922 and the editorial he wrote is called "Kicking Us Out." DuBois writes: "The Democrats won't have us and the Republicans don't want us. Is there anything to do but impotently wring our empty hands? There is, and this is our opportunity. This spells our political emancipation. We are invited not to support either of the old, discredited, and bankrupt political parties. In other words, we are being compelled to do what every honest thinking American wants to do, namely support some third party that represents character, decency, and ideals."

"Just as the

2 old parties have combined against us to nullify our power by a gentleman's agreement of non-recognition no matter how we vote, in the same way they have agreed to nullify the vote of every forward looking, thinking, honest American. The revolt against the smug and idiotic defiance of the demand for advanced legislation and intelligence is slowly sweeping the country. May God write us down as asses if ever again we are found putting our trust in either the Republican or Democratic parties." This is 1922.

He was a very forward thinking man, but something very similar of course could be written today when you look at the dilemma that African Americans face when they're dealing with the two major political parties. They really are a corporate party with two heads, but they have the same body, interests, and certainly the same bloodstream, which is corporate wealth.

HB: Looking back at the weeks and months leading up the recent invasion of Iraq when we were out in the streets trying to prevent more slaughter at the hands of "our" government, it was really intense. Why do you think we weren't able to stop the war?

MAJ: I think in a way it relates to the previous question. We don't have anything resembling a workers' party, a labor party, or a people's party. We have a corporate party as I suggested earlier. We really have a democratic system in name but not substance. Which means that you can have a president that essentially ignores not just the expressed will of millions of people in the country. I remember reading somewhere that something like 20 million people protested this war all around the world. Its one thing to ignore the national sentiment that was very clear, but you essentially had to ignore global sentiment to promote this war. That's why he kept talking about "weapons of mass destruction" and saying the UN didn't know what it was talking about. Bush and others claimed to know where all this stuff was. You had Powell in the UN with these ridiculous maps.

All of a sudden the maps don't work any more. Both parties really depend on a very thin slice of the US electorate and according to the last election cycles, the vast majority of the people don't vote anyway. They don't care what the people want. They just care about their corporate sponsors. Literally, they don't give a damn about what the people want, because

they just want to protect the wealthy.

HB: Do you think there is something we could be doing differently with our protest tactics so that we can stop the next war?

MAJ: I really do think that people should not have "knee-jerk stopped" when the military campaign started. For the most part that's what happened. I understand that people are conditioned into the "support the troops" stuff. But troops are not independent actors. Military people are told what to do by their leaders, and their military leaders are told, (theoretically at least) by the political leaders. If anything demonstrations should have intensified, not kind of decelerated with the mindset that "since it has already started, we can't do anything." I understand why people did it but I think it was the wrong thing to do. I also think that civil disobedience has its place and people need to think about going to those lengths. I know they're afraid and don't want to go to prison or get hurt. But what's the alternative when what is being imposed on the American people is a kind of imperial occupation and a military stance that will last for generations now?

HB: Anything else that you'd like to add?

MAJ: People need to think in terms of continuing resistance because there are millions of people in this country that really share that position, but they feel isolated and afraid of expressing it.

The International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal is calling on supporters to send cloves or whole heads of garlic in a sturdy envelope with a note urging them to provide garlic to Mumia as well as an outside doctor of his choice. Mail this to: Mumia Abu-Jamal c/o Superintendent Folino SCI Greene 169 Progress Drive Waynesburg, PA 15370 Call the prison at (724) 852-2902. From 8am to 5pm ask for Superintendent Folino. After 5pm ask for Captain Hall. ‘

For more information contact the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal at po box 19709 Philadelphia, PA 19143 / (215) 476-8812 or 476-5416 / www.mumia.org or write Mumia: Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM 8335 SCI Greene 175 Progress Drive Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090

Hans Bennett is a Philadelphia-based anarchist and independent photo-journalist. His photos and writing has appeared in such publications as Z Magazine, Alternative Press Review, INSUBORDINATION, AWOL, and the San Jose Mercury News. He can be contacted via email: destroycapitalism@hotmail.com or PO box 30770, Philadelphia, PA 19104.



By Paul Walker

Reality consistently trumps rhetoric. It is hard to speak of a just war based on lies. It is equally hard to paint the Iraqi occupation as popular while coalition forces are exposed to a steadily mounting guerrilla insurgency that has claimed the lives of hundreds, and nearly 10,000 more have been made casualties. And while the administration talks of a 'handover of Iraq' it is US corporations, not Iraqis, who are being 'handed the keys'.

They are the ones who will oversee the reconstruction of Iraq's shattered infrastructure. Just as the power vacuum left by Saddam's ruling apparatus has been filled by an American military authority (and a board of US appointees), so the once state-run industries have been replaced by US corporations.

This is Democracy, American-style. The corporations flooding into Iraq tend to be heavy contributors to the Republican, as well as Democrat parties, not to mention the Bush Administration. They have paid the government's users fees and now the government is making good. Besides, they're Washington insiders. According to a recently published study by the Center for Public Integrity, "...nearly every one of the 10 largest contracts awarded for Iraq and Afghanistan went to

companies employing former high-ranking government officials or individuals with close ties to those agencies or Congress."

Halliburton Corp, and its subsidiary Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), have been awarded contracts in Iraq well into the billions, even while VP Dick Cheney draws up to \$1 million a year in 'deferred compensation' as a former Halliburton CEO. Halliburton sees fighting terrorism as a "growth opportunity." Its subsidiary Kellogg Brown and Root built the prison in Guantanamo Bay Cuba which now holds suspected 'terrorists' captured in Afghanistan indefinitely. KBR have recently come under criticism for hiring subcontractors in Iraq who are importing laborers from Asia rather than hiring from the vast number of Iraqi unemployed, who are seen as a 'security threat.'

Bechtel is another well-connected behemoth close to the heart of the state. It is the 17th largest defense contractor and the number one contractor in the US, employing 40,000. Before becoming Reagan's Secretary of State, George Schultz was Bechtel's President. In '83 he sent Donald Rumsfeld to Iraq to Lobby for an Iraq-Jordan oil pipeline to be built by Bechtel. For decades Bechtel provided Saddam Hussein's regime with 'dual-use' technology that many feared would be used in the

manufacture of chemical and biological weapons, to be used against Iran and his own people. Now well-connected Bechtel (the current CEO Rily Bechtel sits on George Bush's Export Council) has been awarded lucrative contracts to rebuild Iraqi power-grids, water and sewage systems in Iraq, at a guaranteed profit. In 2002 Bechtel took control of the recently privatized water works in Cochabamba, Bolivia, driving up prices to the point that widespread protest drove Bechtel from Bolivia. Look out Iraq.

MCI Worldcomm, US telecomm giant, recently made news in the US for perpetrating a massive fraud, misstating their earnings by \$11 billion. The ensuing collapse cost shareholders \$175 billion and left MCI Worldcomm bankrupt. The Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) fined them \$500 million for its fraud. Now they're going to do it all over in Iraq. Despite the fact that they have never built a wireless network they have been awarded a \$30 million contract to do just that in Iraq,

Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) were awarded contracts to rebuild the Umm-Qasr seaport in Iraq. SSA are notoriously anti-union, both at home and internationally. For years SSA has fought to undermine the International Longshore Workers Union

(ILWU). The ILWU control freight moving through west-coast seaports and are a stronghold of radical labor in the US. During ILW negotiations in 2002 SSA took the lead in trying to undermine contract negotiations. They have also clashed with unions in Bangladesh over the construction of a terminal which union members fear will cost them jobs.

The assertion that the US invaded Iraq to bring it freedom or democracy is absurd. The US wishes to establish a capitalist stronghold in the heart of the Middle East. Not long after the self-proclaimed victory in Iraq George Bush made an announcement regarding policy in the Middle East. I was incredulous to hear the dictate that human rights for women were now a top priority of the Administration, but my raised eyebrows furrowed when immediately afterwards he mentioned plans for a 'Free Trade Area' in the Middle East. It was a moment of pure transparency. Extracting resources, opening markets, tapping new sources of cheap labor. These are the trappings of modern colonialism, and these are the reasons why costly wars are fought.

*SOURCES:
The Corporate Invasion of Iraq:
Profile of US Corporations Awarded Contracts in
US/British- Occupied Iraq by US Labor Against the War
(USLAW)
Winning Contractors
US Contractors Reap the Windfalls of Post-War reconstruction by the Center for Public Integrity*

Farce of "Ending the Occupation"

By Bob Witaneck

"How stupid do they think we are?" is the gist of my response to claims that the occupation is ending as of June 2004 since the US has announced that it will handpick and install militarily a so-called "interim government" at that time. What a farce! The media is referring to this as "sovereignty" and Kofi Annan has recently made some noises of approval for such steps. Meanwhile, the US has announced that it will help draft the Iraqi constitution (in other words - impose a constitution upon Iraq) that recognizes American values. While the articles have talked about free speech and democratic elections as values to be recognized, private ownership and privatization will likely be sanctioned as well by the US drafted constitution. IGC leaders are announcing that once they have the interim government in place they will invite the US military forces to stay longer. They are telling us that such is not

PAGE 10 an occupation but then is a US presence in Iraq. We

need to unmask that farce now and over the next 7 months if indeed the US keeps to this timetable and longer if there are delays.

It is NOT sovereignty - as the media and others are referring to it - to transfer power to a bunch of Iraqis - most of them who were in exile for recent decades and many who were working for the CIA. It is not sovereignty to privatize the Iraqi industrial sector and ministries as is under way now. It is not sovereignty for the US to write the constitution of Iraq as is now transpiring. It is not sovereignty to rewrite the history books in Iraq as is under way - to delete all references to the genocide of the sanctions!

The transfer to an interim government is indeed neo-colonialism (as opposed to the pure colonialism now being applied). Indeed for a real transfer of power to occur - the US must wipe out the resistance - thus Operation Iron Hammer. Remember Vietnam-ization - every time the US wanted to transfer power to Vietnamese it would mark a very sig-

nificant step up in the counter insurgency, indiscriminate bombing, etc. Likewise now, as the US touts this thin paper sovereignty farce - Iron Hammer is dropping bombs - 500 pounds to 2000 pounds - launching missiles - putting communities under siege.

Can the resistance survive the onslaught? Will the Iraqi people go for the farce of transfer of power and accept the continuing escalation of counter insurgency? Will they accept the privatization that has already been inked? Will they accept the continuing occupation that has already been decided in advance by the IGC that serves at the behest of the US military dictatorship?

Recent response of the Iraqi fighters - the continuing ambushes and Black Hawk Down Times Two suggests that perhaps Iraqis will be resilient through it all.
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Discontent in the Ranks

by dave onion

"I don't care what the administration says about flag-waving and children throwing flowers. It is just not true. The stories coming back are horrific. All he told me was that he had seen and done some horrible things, that they had all done and seen some terrible things.", Jane Bright, mother of infantryman killed in Mosul.

After over half a year of quagmire (pronounce: guaaaaagmiire), discontent amongst US troops stationed in Iraq is beginning to simmer into the public eye. Despite strict military policy intended to keep morale up in the midst of a daily misery of beating, policing and killing Iraqis and being subjected to the parallel hell of military discipline, US troops are increasingly projecting what may become a wave of revolt from the barracks. Significantly contributing to this souring are that thousands of troops are being kept way past their time of deployment and of course the apparent lack of concern for their lives from the imperial elite. Where the troops are often coerced into silence about their conditions, its their families, worried and less prone to reprisals who've taken to the public eye.

A quickly growing movement among military families demanding the troops return home is a much welcomed element to the anti-war movement. Dozens of groups of military families opposing the war have sprung up across the US, most opposing the war, all at the very least demanding safety for their sons and daughters. Nearly all the groups' websites feature letters documenting both conditions in the Gulf and Afghanistan as well as plenty of rage. As conditions get worse in Iraq, families and vets have stepped up the pressure with petitions and political pressure, organizing protests and some hooking up with the anti-war movement. Back in Iraq the military elites are even growing increasingly edgy

not just from the threat of the Iraqi resistance, but also from potential "friendly" fire emanating from US lines. In a post on traveling-soldier.org a father mentions a conversation from his son:" In the conversation I asked him about Rumsfeld's visit to the Baghdad Airport. My son said that on an average day, there are Iraqis around the airport doing different chores. He said that none were allowed at the



Mendez with Vets for Peace

airport during Rumsfeld's visit. More disturbing, my son said there were sharp-shooters on the roofs of all the buildings. I asked my son why they would need sharp-shooters on the roof if there were no Iraqis at the Airport. He said they were for the SOLDIERS! He said they were all warned that any one that went on a roof would be SHOT! The airport is made up of several high rise buildings that the troops live in. My son said several of his friends live on the upper floors of these buildings. He said they generally go up on the roof to read or to smoke, etc. These soldiers were warned they would be shot if they went up on

the roof for any reason. I find it shocking that the morale is so low for the troops that the upper brass don't trust them."

A post by Californian, Susan Moran on bringthemhomenow.org discusses her son:"...only 21 and joined the Army as a means of obtaining a college education. He served 6 months last year in Afghanistan. When he called us from Afghanistan the only things he wanted us to send him were warm socks and gloves!! I have learned so much about how the military does not provide the basics, let alone flack jackets and appropriate weapons for these young people."

When the National Guard's 31st Battalion stationed in Iraq was given their first 2 weeks leave end of September, Army reservist Frank Mendez wasted no time. By October 3rd Mendez along with his family and a handful of other reservists and supporters from Veterans for Peace had pulled together what seemed to be a successful protest in front of Senators Corzine and Lautenberg's office in Newark, NJ. The main demand that the troops be sent back home hinged on the dangerous and crap conditions that reservists have been facing in Iraq. For example, Mendez, along with others from the 310th Battalion had just gotten his first 13 days leave in 2 years on active duty, a time which had been stretched ad infinitum from the originally anticipated several month stint in Iraq. That extra time away from home is compounded by numerous additional aggravations and dangers, many unique to the Reservists who are in many ways treated as a lower caste of soldier. Reservists, for instance drive unarmored vehicles (with canvas where regular units drive armored vehicles), get issued defective or outdated equipment, and are made to do most of grunt work for "full time" soldiers. A reservist quoted an article in UK newspaper the Guardian said: "The equipment they tried to hand us was items that were bound for the trash pile"... "Vietnam era flack vests held together by dental floss won't keep us safe ... It was like pulling teeth trying to get the things we needed. As 'dirty reservists', we didn't deserve the same respect, even though we're supposed to watch the active duty's backs." Another reservist Richard Sciota from PA was issued a protective vest without the plates which do the actual work of stopping the bullets. Unable to get them while deployed in Iraq, his parents chipped in the \$660 themselves to buy them and shipped them to their son.

Conditions for reservists who make up about half of the 130,000 fighting Bush's occupation in Iraq have gotten so bad that many are coming down with severe mental illness. According to the Guardian article, 75% of 478 troops taken out of Iraq because of mental health issues have been reservists.

While discontent has been widespread throughout the military, fewer enlisted folks have taken to open refusal to serve or fight, though a handful of soldiers are taking on refusing killing duty in Iraq. One refuser lately stirring it up in the news has been Simone Holcomb, a Colorado Springs, CO National Guard medic facing desertion charges for refusing to return to Iraq. She and her husband had already been deployed to Iraq earlier this year, leaving their seven kids in the care of husband Vaughn Holcomb's mother. They both returned home on emergency leave to deal with a custody battle with Vaughn's ex-wife for 2 of the children when a judge ruled that Simone should stay behind to take care of the children. Around the same time, Vaughn's mother had to return to Ohio to take care of her husband who has cancer, leaving the children with their parents who were under orders to return to Iraq. Vaughn left October 14 (now facing constant skirmishes along the Syrian border), but Simone unwilling to leave her kids refused to leave, citing the judge's decision and her own situation with the kids. In response, her battalion initiated punitive action against her, reporting her as AWOL/deserter, cut her pay, demanded she return all pay she'd received since October 11 and as of press time are still processing her discharge and potential disciplinary actions against her.

Another very outspoken enlisted resister is



Stephen Funk

Stephen Funk. Funk had grown up in Seattle and considered himself a political activist. He faced off against the WTO in 99, protested the Democratic National Convention the next year in LA and was active defending political prisoners. A recruiter somehow managed to convince Stephen to sign up with the Marine Reserves. Funk went through boot camp and was met with a heavy dose of reality when he was taught to kill (killing of course being the military's specialty). In February of last year, his unit based in San Diego was mobilized to load cargo bound for the impending battlefield, Funk refused, went AWOL and filed his CO papers, turning himself in April 1st after a press conference.

"I refuse to kill," says Funk. "It is scary to confront the military, because the military teaches you to submit to orders even when

continued on page 13 **PAGE 11**

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More For The Boss and Less For Us an Overtime Attack follow up

By McMike

In the last issue of the Defenestrator, I added a last minute addition to the article entitled 'Labor Day' reflections on working so damn much...Or...What the hell do you mean 'NO OVERTIME?!' It was a piece on how the Bush administration was in the process of undermining the 40-hour work week, by destroying overtime protection for millions of workers.

A bill which would ban the U.S. Department of Labor from implementing the Bush backed proposal to undermine overtime protections, guaranteed under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), was passed in the senate on September 10th.

The FLSA has remained one of organized labors largest achievements for working people since its founding. But, it's important to remember that the FLSA wasn't simply a gift from a more 'benevolent government' of some bygone era. The FLSA was a concession that the system made due to the organization and militancy of a massive labor movement, in the shops and in their streets, which demanded change. The 1930's saw many radical victories for working people, all of which came at a heavy price, and none of which was free.

After the Senate rejected the Bush bill, the two Congressional Houses followed it's lead and also blocked the Labor Department rules aimed at elimi-

nating overtime protection for an estimated 8 million workers. However, Bush has again stated that regardless of the defeats the bill has met in both the Senate and the House, he will veto any final legislation protecting overtime pay.

So where does that leave us? Well I believe, with out a doubt, that we're headed backwards towards far greater hours with less pay, increasingly worse work and environmental conditions, and fewer health and medical protections in increasingly dangerous work places.

The attempts to roll back overtime benefits fit into a larger landscape of the attacks on employed and unemployed workers in this country. In the past year alone massive corporate and boss assaults on health, medical, and pension benefits of union workers have led to widespread strikes and anger.

The nearly avoided North East Verizon communication workers strike this fall was largely over pension and health care issues, as is the ongoing lock-out of 71,000 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union right now in California. The UFCW is attempting to organize against the three biggest grocery corporations in the world: Kroger, Safeway, and Albertson's. And the outcome of this strike is being seen as a significant litmus test over whether or not organized labor has the power to retain its hold on key worker contract issues like health and pension benefits.

And what of non-unionized workers and the unemployed who are already dealing with fewer crumbs from the tables of the bosses. The UFCW struggle against the corporate grocers is a direct result of underpaid, non-organized workplaces such as Walmart, where health care and pension benefits are already disgustingly low if your 'lucky' enough to have them in the first place.

So here we are...2003, more for the bosses and less for us, again.

The unions today, from the big business organizations down to the more rank and file organized unions, are increasingly dismayed with the attitudes and the actions of the Bush government. It also appears that the majority of the unions today are placing their faith in the courts and legal battles to save what remains of labor's victories. So what now?

The victories of Labor movements of the past are increasingly on the way out, and not unlike the past, when left to legal battles in a contest between those that have and those that have not, the rich will walk away the winners.

The battles being waged over the rights and benefits of working people today are reflections of a system which undermines and undervalues the very people on which it relies for it's foundations. Which, of course, brings us round to an old question, "Why do we, the people on which all of the system is built, ALLOW this cycle to continue?"

As far as the overtime threat goes, the AFL-CIO and other 'Big Labor' organizations think that the Labor Department could put the overtime pay cuts

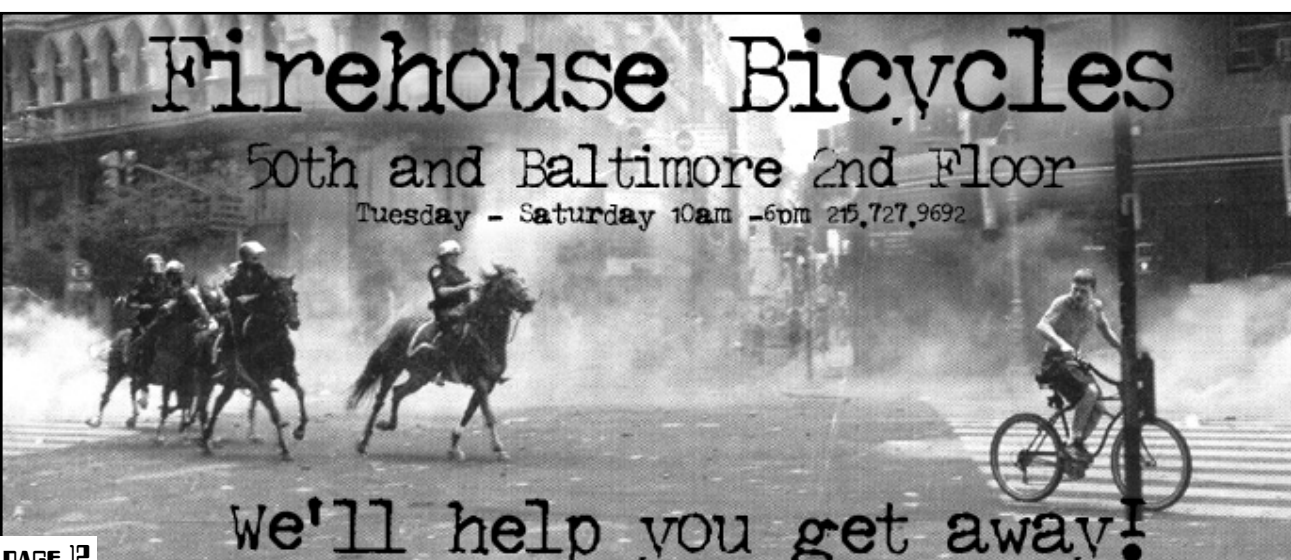


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discontent continued

you object. I may not be a hero, but I know that it takes courage to disobey. I know that it demands courage to say 'no' in the face of coercion."

In April Funk was brought before a military court in New Orleans to face charges of desertion. The jury of 4 marines found him innocent of. But they did convict Funk of unauthorized absence (AWOL) and gave him a six month sentence, a demotion and loss of his military benefits. He's currently doing time at Camp Lejeune military prison in North Carolina, the same place where dozens of Gulf War 1 COs where locked up some 13 years ago.

Bush's \$87 billion for the occupation could easily be seen as an attempt to buy some morale for his mercenaries in Iraq. After talking about troops as bait for Iraqi resistance fighters in his "bring it on" speech, and after soldiers were refused basics like help paying for their uniforms, let alone funerals, chances are Bush is making some very conscious last ditch efforts to save his elite ass lest the very ones he handed weapons to kill Iraqis turn on him instead.

As of just last week amidst numerous successful military blows against occupying forces, the Pentagon announced huge increases in troops sent to Iraq to help destroy Iraqi resistance against their occupation. 50,000 new troops earmarked for deployment include two battalions of Marine reservists and would swell the occupational force from 130,000 to about 180,000 despite their stated plans to turn the occupation down to 100,000 by middle of next year. After so many extensions of duty, few are likely to believe they'll be relieved. But the concessions to soldiers are already too late for a political solution, especially as Iraqi resistance is growing more bold, organized and taking out more (maltreated) imperial mercenaries by the day. We can only hope that more and more GIs take a cue from the resistance and turn against the brass as their real enemies.

Soldiers in occupied Iraq are workers producing the material power of authoritarian violence. As exploited people facing bullets and clubs in the streets where capital is violently expanding (as in Miami) or protecting a system of class theft (theft of our labour, resources, freedom...), as dispossessed Americans living under police oppression the relationships couldn't be clearer. And US bullets and bombs delivered by GIs play the too similar role in capital's expansion in the Middle East. As the Market Empire enters Iraq on a highway of fresh blood, GI's should remember whose game they're playing. As soldiers, their humanity is eclipsed by a social relationship that puts them well on the side of capitalism, exploitation and the entrenchment of an expanding empire serving the global elite (including global corporations and the elite class they serve). Subversive acts in the military like those of refusers, resisters and saboteurs are key to the reclamation of a soldiers' humanity, something stolen by a self serving system which institutionalizes violence and exploitation to survive. So let's hear it for those who put themselves on the line to turn it around! Bush told the Iraqi resistance to "bring it on" and they did.

Now, to occupation troops, we say "turn those guns around and bring it on!!"



The Unemployment Rate Is a Dirty Lie

By the Blanketman

"See our chart- unemployment's gone down! If that ruins your life, that's your problem."

"Soup is Good Food," Jello Biafra, Dead Kennedys

On July 20th, 2003, I ceased to exist as far as the U.S. Department of Labor was concerned. How did this happen? On that date, I had been unemployed for over 9 months. Because in the previous month the number of people receiving unemployment in Pennsylvania had dropped- and not because they found jobs, since the total number of jobs in the state had dropped, but because they had exhausted their benefits- my unemployment benefits were not extended. Since they were not extended, I was now considered a "discouraged worker" and therefore not in the labor force anymore.

That same month, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that unemployment had dropped from 6.5% to 6.2% even though the overall number of jobs in the country had also dropped. So where did these people (including me) go? We all became "discouraged workers."

"Discouraged workers" are people whom the DOL assume have stopped looking for work since the economy is so bad, so they are removed from the labor force altogether. If enough unemployed people are swept under the rug as "discouraged workers," then the unemployment rate can actually drop even though fewer and fewer people are working.

Why do they count you as a "discouraged worker" if you lose your unemployment benefits? Because you don't call the government every two weeks and tell them that you are still looking for work- such as when you receiving unemployment and you have to do this. Granted there are some surveys conducted by the DOL to try to estimate this number, but the main way of being counted as an unemployed member of the work force is to report for your benefits. Also, if you have been fired quit or were laid-off without enough time on the job to get benefits, you'll probably not be counted also. One begins to see that by restricting

unemployment benefits the government actually makes the unemployment picture look better. Also, when you throw in the over two million prisoners who aren't considered to be part of the labor force and the untold millions who are working part-time, but want to work fulltime, who are considered employed, you realize that most of the US's unemployment problem is hidden and not counted in the unemployment rate.

This is why the U.S. unemployment figures are always suspiciously lower than those in European countries with more comprehensive unemployment benefits or when you compare current unemployment rates with rates from before President Ronald Reagan's first term when unemployment benefits were restricted and the way unemployment was counted changed. For example, the Reagan Administration started counting the military as an employed part of the work force when they hadn't been counted before then.

Right-wing economists claimed that more liberal unemployment benefits presented a "moral hazard" by "adding" 1-2% to the unemployment rate and forcing employers to raise wages to attract workers. They didn't publicly mention that this made it easier to "disappear" these workers once they stopped receiving benefits.

Also, the classism in such economic views are so obvious. That unemployed workers could enjoy unemployment compensation, for which they had already paid out of their pay-checks, pursue their

own interests and lives, and hold out for decent wages from employers apparently caused these right-wing economists fits. After all, isn't unpaid leisure only the province of the rich? Shouldn't these unemployed workers be forced to beg for whatever scraps the economy may throw their way?

The Reagan Administration not only changed the way unemployment was counted and restricted unemployment benefits, but it also increased the prison population, moving poor people from the unemployment roles into jail, and deliberately caused a recession in the early '80s by manipulating the money supply to break the unions and force workers into desperation. These practices and tactics have been used by every administration since, even by Democrat Bill Clinton, to keep workers down and hide the real state of unemployment. When you begin to look at how these figures are routinely cooked, you can see how economists on television can conjure up such bullshit as a "jobless recovery"- i.e. rich people are making more money, even though most people in the country are getting screwed.

The Blanketman will write a follow-up to this article, "The GNP Is a Dirty Lie," even though he officially no longer exists.



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Miami Ice continued

sky" reporting. We are filthy with panicked sweat. Back inside the matrix people are drinking cocktails all fancied up and laughing at the bar. A nattily dressed man on the elevator asks me what it was like "out on the street" - "I heard on channel 7 that the protestors were throwing teargas and that a policeman got hurt" - I somehow resist spitting on his clean shoes.

We make our way back to the convergence center where, much to my relief, though, as my friend comments, it feels like a post-battle scene, with people walking around on crutches and make-shift casts, with bandaged arms and bruised faces, Food not Bombs is dishing out bowls of hot vegetarian chile and a packed spokes council meeting is in full swing. Street report-backs on arrests, brutality, medical, legal are given. Union leaders prepare for a press conference outside to show solidarity with arrestees and denounce police behaviors. The Wellness Center (set up as a safe space for doctors and medics to treat the wounded) has been pepper-sprayed; Eowyn Rieke, MD and family physician reports that the "cops were completely out of control and in total disregard for the safety and well being of health care workers and their patients." The center already has treated over 125 people for injuries including facial lacerations, bone fractures, head wounds and exposure to chemicals. Jail support is discussed and plans for a Friday rally at the courthouse. Counselors set up a quiet space outside to listen to stories of the day and offer support. A lovely joyful young woman gets up and encourages people to come and be part of the "Really, Really Free Market" next day - Starhawk announces that the pagans will offer free massages, healing, herbs; free cherry trees will be planted in neighborhoods around the city, free hugs and goods will be offered. (More riot cops surround this permitted event the next day). Despite the day's madness we are still standing, determined as ever. It is our world too. We are offered free housing with some medics staying with an elderly Unitarian woman in southwest Miami who makes up soft places for us to sleep - huge, beautiful, knotted ficus trees fill her yard and she tells us of the "Save Dade County" tree planting campaign, an effort to renourish a once beautiful but stripped environment; we remember why we came 22 hours on a bus to Miami: to oppose the corporatization of the world; to proclaim another more human-centered vision for humanity.

We continue to be awkward.
What the theorists of neoliberalism tell us is false:

More For The Boss continued

into effect as soon as Jan. of next year. Yeah, that's THIS January! And once again the Big Unions are urging their members to contact their Senators and U.S. representatives to protest. My question at this point is at what point does the approach catch up to the realities of what's at stake?! It seems to me that to really speak loudly to power, the 'labor movement' must take an active presence in the streets of our cities, as well as in our shops, on the phone lines and in the mail boxes of our "representatives".

There must be a labor movement that steps out of the mold of the business union model, a movement that's made of the rank and file, making new decisions, new strategies, and new goals.

APOC continued

are coming out loudly, proudly and in strong solidarity. Fear is not a word that I feel when I look at the anarchist people of color movement, which is what Uncle

That everything is under control, including everything that isn't under control.

We are not a safety valve for the rebellion that could destabilize neoliberalism.

It is false that our rebel existence legitimates the Power:

The Power fears us.

That is why it pursues us and fences us in.

That is why it jails and kills us.

In r/Reality, we are the possibility that it can be defeated and made to disappear.

Maybe there are not so many of us, but we are men and women who struggle for humanity, who struggle against neoliberalism.

We are men and women who struggle around the world. We are men and women who want the five continents to have:

Democracy! Liberty! Justice!

From the 2nd Declaration of La Realidad, the Zapatistas

·*A new breed of fascists - Miami ICE cops had on black T-shirts with Department of Homeland Security emblazoned on them - "terrorist"- control cops.

FBI Watch:

An article published in the New York Times (Sunday, November 23) " FBI scrutinizes Anti-war Rallies" by Erich Lichtblau shows that anarchists, in particular, (and this isn't exactly new, just more heightened) are being targeted for repression. "FBI officials said in interviews that the intelligence gathering effort was aimed at identifying anarchists and 'extreme elements' plotting violence." According to one FBI official "we know that there are anarchists that are actively involved in trying to sabotage and commit acts of violence at these different events." Peace activists, union folks, religious groups, whatever, need to stand in solidarity with anarchists and anti-capitalist activists and refuse to be part of such a campaign. AFL-CIO leaders in Miami attended spokes council meetings nightly and promised solidarity with anti-capitalists, by refusing to listen to police/media efforts to divide activists, showing respect for a diversity of tactics, and NOT working in coordination with the police (who, it's key to remember, are the enemy). What happened in Miami was completely unprovoked. In the words of one imc writer activists were "repressed, brutalized, and criminalized based solely on our political identities as actors on behalf of a better world, and not on anything we were able to in fact do."

Legal/Medical:

Over 250 people, including medics, legal observers, mainstream and Indy media people were arrested. The majority were charged with misdemeanors while others were excessively charged with felonies. Activists were treated brutally while in jail and many injuries were noted. For further updates go to www.ftaaimc.org.

INTERNATIONAL



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Bolivia continued

campesinos migrating from the surrounding rural areas began settling it in the 50's on the edge of La Paz. Today it retains a strong worker and indigenous identity with many ex-miners having settled there and 80% of the people identifying as indigenous. In the past 50 years the city has grown up quickly with very little planning, infrastructure or financial help from the National Government. Many homes lack access to potable water, electricity and connections to sewers. 45% of the people live in poverty and 26% live in



"the GAS belongs to us and the right to industrialize and use it is owed us"

extreme poverty, meaning they live on less than 1\$ a day.

By the first week of October, many campesinos and miners had come to El Alto to directly pressure the Government. El Alto was an obvious choice for the out-of-towners due to the strong ties existing between the many first and second generation campesinos and miners in El Alto and their brethren from the countryside. In fact, many neighborhoods in El Alto were settled by campesinos from the same rural communities further fortifying the ties between the urban and rural. The city also has a strong sense of neighborhood solidarity - a legacy from the past ten years of organizing to demand basic water and sanitary services from the government. El Alto was also an obvious strategic choice for its proximity to La Paz. Most roads that enter La Paz pass through El Alto and the international airport lies in the middle of the city. Already radicalized by a strong working class consciousness, angered by the army's violence and intimidation against the campesinos in the countryside, and strategically located next to La Paz, the Alteños (name given to the people of El Alto) were ripe to rise up in a big way.

Up until the second week of October, La Paz and El Alto had been relatively removed from the conflicts occurring outside the cities. But despite the calm, an urban movement was slowly building. After the violence outside of Sorata, a few general strikes were declared in both El Alto and La Paz over the following three weeks. The strikes were only partially obeyed and they petered out after a few days, but they were getting stronger going on

October. The COB, a huge umbrella workers' union, played a major role in the strikes from the beginning. By the end of September, local unions of butchers, health care workers, bus drivers, teachers and other trades had joined the strikes and were organizing marches. The universities were suspending classes with students, professors, and administration joining the protests. Meanwhile, confederations of retired workers and landlords were organizing marches through out both cities. And, the vendors in the huge outdoor markets were beginning to close their stands in solidarity. The marches were becoming more confrontational, the police were using more and more tear gas, and

protesters were getting injured by the police. In both cities, a barely concealed rage that seemed close to igniting was radiating in the streets.

A new general strike was declared in El Alto on October 8th and this time it was universally obeyed. On that day, two protesters had been killed when the army

broke through a blockade just outside El Alto and the city was buzzing. Over the next few days, stores that dared open were forced to close (within a few more days, offending stores were being looted.) Groups of striking vendors patrolled the outdoor markets, pouring kerosene over the few open stands and forcing them to close under threat of being torched. Utilizing the same techniques of the campesinos, Alteños congregated at strategic intersections to blockade the streets, reinforcing the blockades with burning tires, rocks and trashed property. Not a single vehicle circulated the city. The highway between El Alto and La Paz was blockaded and the airport was unreachable. El Alto was completely shut down.

El Alto finally exploded on the night of October 12th. A day earlier, neighbors had surrounded the only gasoline distributor for both El Alto and La Paz and prevented the gas trucks from leaving. By evening, the gas stations in La Paz were running on empty and the Government desperate to show it was in control. That next night, the gas trucks left the plant with a military escort that included tanks and helicopter support. Resisting with only rocks and sticks, the protesters succeeded in forcing the convey back, but at the cost of at least 5 dead. As news of the violence spread through the city, protesters and police clashed in other parts of the city. Though there was no evidence of protesters firing arms, the police fired live ammunition and tear gas indiscriminately. Of the more than 20 civilians that died that night, some were killed in their house by stray bullets. The next day, the heavily militarized convey again tried to leave and this time

succeeded in reaching La Paz - but only after breaking through at least ten different blockades on its way through El Alto and leaving a bloody wake of 20 corpses.

The two days of military violence against the protesters in El Alto left around 50 people dead and over 200 wounded. The next day Goni declared martial law in El Alto. The deaths had an incredible effect on public opinion. Whereas before there had been a general sympathy for the protesters, they were now being called patriots - fighting so that Bolivian gas would be used to benefit all Bolivia. Throughout La Paz, from the wealthy to the poor neighborhoods, Bolivian flags were unfurled from houses with black ribbons attached to them, honoring those killed. Even the conservative national newspapers were calling the Government guilty of a massacre. The unifying demand nation-wide was now nothing less than the resignation of Goni.

The violence of those two days further radicalized the Alteños. Local neighborhood assemblies were called throughout El Alto to determine the most effective ways to resist the government and the army. Neighbors went from house to house calling on the residents to take to the streets (sometimes under threat). When the army went on house-to-house searches for union leaders, neighbors hid them or surrounded their houses, forming human barricades to prevent their being arrested. Organized by neighborhood, blockades multiplied throughout the city. Dynamite was used to carve out craters in the streets to prevent tanks from moving through the city. El Alto had turned into a war zone.

It took five more days for Goni to finally give up. But with the unrelenting pressure from El Alto, his defeat was just a matter of time. The following events were nothing more than nails in the coffin. The police and armed forces were beginning to waver. Some police officers who lived in El Alto were to desert, fearing that their families might be harmed by angry neighbors. Witnesses claim that a soldier was executed on the streets of El Alto for refusing to fire at protesters.

(The accused officer is currently being investigated by the current government.) Religious leaders, intellectuals, human rights activists, and more moderate leaders of the middle classes initiated hunger strikes throughout the country demanding Goni's resignation. And of course, there were the thousands of miners and campesinos descending on the capital.

I discovered the Spanish quote headlining this article scrawled on a downtown wall in La Paz sometime around the mid-point of the protests. It translates as "The protest is an iron woman without party nor leaders". While the protests were not without opposition party leaders, it was the militant civil disobedience carried out by thousands of poor indigenous rebels organized by rural community, neighborhood, or trade union who succeeded in bringing down the government. The iron will of the protesters was truly amazing. In the countryside, grandparents, mothers, fathers and children camped out on the highways for 6 weeks, manning blockades in the face of army intimidation. Campesinos discovered alone on the highways in the vicinities of blockades were captured and jailed by the army. Dirt poor campesinos allowed their produce to wilt in the fields, sacrificing the meager profits they

could have made from selling it. In the streets of El Alto, protesters armed with only rocks and sticks resisted the advance of tanks and machine guns. And the ultimate sacrifice of blood was paid by more than 80 people who were killed and over 400 who were wounded.

The uprising and ousting of President Sanchez was a stunning triumph for Bolivia's indigenous people over a government totally unsympathetic to their needs. But Goni was only a figurehead. The real target of the uprising was the power behind him - the transnationals, the IMF and the US who were using Goni to extract as much as they could from Bolivia. Though a far cry from a revolution (Goni's vice-president who assumed the presidency will undoubtedly make only a few minor reforms), the rebellion demonstrated a growing consciousness, unity and collective power on part of the country's indigenous people. However, with the growing resistance of many South American countries (such as Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina and Ecuador) opposing US aspirations, Bolivia will find itself under stronger pressure to abide by Uncle Sam's wishes.

Caught within the growing chasm separating these two opposing sides - the demands of the country's mostly indigenous people and those of the US, Bolivia's leadership will eventually be forced to take a side...with either choice entailing huge, but distinct, repercussions.

Jeff McClelland is an English and gardening teacher. A California gringo, he has been living in La Paz since February of this year. He has been a social justice activist for over a decade working with Food Not Bombs and Housing Not Borders. He can be reached at HYPERLINKmailto:jeffmcclelland@yahoo.com"jeffmcclelland@yahoo.com.

-- "Solidarity is the tenderness of the people of the world" - Nicaraguan Revolutionary Slogan
colours.mahost.org (new address) activesolidarity.net



November 17 - January 2004

USA Patriot Act Cartoon Exhibit
At the Free Library of Philadelphia 19th and Ben.
Franklin Parkway

December 5th

Pretty Village, Pretty Flames - a film about the war
in Yugoslavia, FREE at the A-Space. Balkan Dance
Party following the film at Dahlak Restaurant on
4700 block of Baltimore Ave.

Saturday, December 6th

Rally/Protest INS detentions and Caterpillar in York,
Pa. Bus leaving from 30th St. Station 8:30am return
late afternoon. Sponsored by SUSTAIN and Phila.
Anti-War Forum. Info: sustainphilly@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 7th

"What is Identity Politics?", a discussion hosted by
Anti-War forum's Travis Parchman. Noon-1pm at
the A-Space
info: pa-wf@critpath.org

Discussion: Push by Sapphire (Ramona Lofton) -
Center City Phila; call Fiction & Social Change
Reading Group for details : 215.925.7616

Monday, December 8th

Intolerable Killings: 10 years of abductions and
murder of women in Ciudad Juarez - 7:30pm-
9:30pm at the Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 S.
Rittenhouse Square; info: Amnesty International
610-313-9706

Tuesday, December 9th

What I Want my Words to Do to You
Free film screening focused on a writing group led
by playwright and activist Eve Ensler (of the Vagina
Monologues) at the Bedford Hills Correctional
Facility in NY. 7-9 pm at the Prince Music Theatre,
1413 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. Please RSVP
to WHY? (215-351-1690)

Wednesday, December 10

Stop the Wall! Palestinian activist Ziad Abu-Rish
makes a power point presentation about the wall in
Palestine, and the Stop the Wall Campaign.
Followed by a facilitated discussion. 7:30pm A-
Space info: sustainphilly@yahoo.com

Friday, December 12

Political Theater Meeting & Audition 7pm A-Space.
info: dshoval@hotmail.com

Saturday, December 13

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!!!
Rally, March, Conference for freedom fighter
brother Mumia Abu-Jamal

Benefit dinner for LAVA radical
library! Bring \$5 and a book!
7:30pm A-Space;
info: onion@riseup.net

Sunday, December 14

AFRO PUNK - the "rock'n roll nig-

ger" experience. A documentary exploring black
identity within the punk scene. FREE 8PM at the
Rotunda, 4014 Walnut St info: heather:
215.747.0668

Rally : 10am at 7th & Fairmount Streets, at the
Friends Neighborhood Guild.
March at 11:00am to Benjamin Franklin High
School, Broad and Green Streets
Indoor Conference and Rally at 1:00pm at the High
School. Hear the evidence that the courts refused
to admit in the recent PA Supreme Court Rejection
of the motions of Mumia's attorneys. Learn about
government terrorism and intimidation against wit-
nesses!
info: 215-476-8812, or icffmaj@aol.com
ICFFMAJ - www.mumia.org

Memorial to Phil Berrigan (October 5,
1923 - December 6, 2002) at
University Lutheran Church,
3637 Chestnut St.,
info: Brandywine Peace
Community (610) 544-1818
brandywine@juno.com

Monday, December 15

Movie at the A-Space: Daybreak

7:30pm

Friday, December 19

Poems Not Prisons Open Mic an open mic poetry
benefit for Philadelphia County Coalition on Prison

Health Care 7:30pm A-Space

Saturday, December 20

Video Ojore N Lutalo: In His Own Words: A 45
minute interview with New Afrikan Anarchist
Prisoner Of War Ojore N Lutalo; 7:30pm A-Space

Monday, December 22

**Charlie Chaplin in Modern Times ,a
benefit for the defenestrator.
info: defenestrator.org**

Christmas Candlelight Peace Vigil, 7PM

December 26th

Critical Mass bike ride 5pm West Side of City Hall

Sunday, January 4th

What is an anti-racist ally? Do they exist?
Discussion led by the Phila Anti-War Forum noon-1
pm at the A-Space. info: pa-wf@critpath.org

Monday, January 19, 2004

Martin Luther King Day Of Direct Action
Those interested in doing civil disobedience, call
the Brandywine Peace Community by 1/10/04).
Info: Brandywine Peace Community (610) 544-
1818 brandywine@juno.com

Food Not Bombs

In a country hungry for war, that bombs countries
hungry for food...join Food Not Bombs Every
Sunday at 3:00 PM; 20th St. and The Ben. Franklin
Parkway For more information: foodnotbomb-
shilly@yahoo.com

Vigil to Support Israeli Voices of Peace

Every Friday from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Israeli
Consulate; 15th & Locust Streets Sponsored by
Jewish Mobilization for a Just Peace. Email:
jmjp_philly@yahoo.com for more info.

Honk for Mumia - small demonstrations to distrib-
ute information and show support
2nd and 4th Saturday of every month 2pm at 52nd
and Market

SE Chapter PA Abolitionists Monthly Vigil

First Thursday of every month from 12:00 pm - 1:00
pm Outside Governor Rendell's Office 200S. Broad
St. Calling for an end to executions in PA. info:
waxie55@hotmail.com for more info.

Women's Anti-Violence Education (WAVE)

Monday drop-in classes every Monday night from
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Friend.s Center; 1501 Cherry

Street Phone: 215-241- 5720 for more information
WAVE offers a drop-in, self-defense, class every
Monday night. There is a sliding scale fee of \$5-
\$20 (pay what you can). Women of any age, size, or
physical ability will benefit. Can't make it Monday?
call about our full length self-defense courses
offered regularly.

Saturday Afternoon **Self-Defense for Women** class
taught by women 1-4pm at the Friends Center,
1501 Cherry St., \$60 full fee but pay what you can,
no one turned

Philadelphia Social Forum

First Sunday of each month at 3PM Robin.s Book
Store, 108 S. 13th Street

Philadelphia Gender Changers Academy

Female to Female Trans Technology
Womens' computer classes on Wednesdays
6:30pm-9pm (\$10-\$25 cost for materials)
info@phillygca.org

Philadelphians United to Support Public Schools

Every Monday from 5:15 pm - 7:45 pm United Way
. 1st floor; 21st & Ben Franklin Pkwy. E-mail: jor-

danpccy@hotmail.com for more info

Philadelphia Regional Anti War Network

Meetings Thursday nights at 7pm
2200 N. Broad, 2nd Floor
Susquehanna and Broad
phillyprawn.org

ACT UP

Weekly Meeting Every Monday from 6:00 pm - 9:00
pm St. Lukes Church; 330 S. 13th St. (between
Pine & Spruce) Email: actupphilly@critpath.org for
more info.

Neighbors Against McPenntification

Weekly Meeting every Tuesday from 7:00 pm -
9:00 pm Toviah Thrift Shop; Chestnut betw. 42nd &
43rd Phone: 215-382-7251 for more info.

Philadelphia County Coalition for Prison Health Care (PCCPHC)

PCCPHC is fighting for health care access for all
people in the Philadelphia jails and more support
and services when people are released.
Meets every Tuesday from 10:30am-12noon
1233 Locust Street, 2nd Floor (through the AIDS

Library). For more info, call 267-978-7405 (Martin)

Books Through Bars

Packing Café Every Tuesday from 7:30 pm - 9:30
pm The A Space; 4722 Baltimore Ave. E-mail:
info@booksthroughbars.org for more info

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia

Every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 4601
Market St., 5th floor Phone: 215-476- 5416 for
more info.

Philadelphia Anti-War Forum

Meeting Third Sunday of every month from 1:00 pm
- 3:00 pm A space; 4722 Baltimore Ave. E-mail: cla-
narchy@prodigy.net

Candlelight Vigil Against the War

Every Sunday at 7:00 PM in W. Philly till the war
ends 50th and Baltimore Ave
info: 215-474-4081

Passages: a peer support group for trans people.

Thursdays from 6pm-8pm at the William Way
Center, Rm 12 info: 215.981.3351

LAVA - Lancaster Avenue Autonomous space 4134
Lancaster Ave- A conspiracy from the fanatics at the
defenestrator, the Philly Independent Media Centre,
Radio Volta, the derailleurs collective, the
Unconvention and others comes this new project: a
radical community centre in the pancreas of West
Philly. We bought a building, now we need your
involvement! info: 215.387.6155 or space@philly-
imc.org * defenestrator.org/space

A-Space - a collectively run anarchist gallery and
meeting/community space. Events are free and
generally start at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.
Accessible by the 34 trolley. Plenty of parking for
cars and bikes. They pass the hat to cover rent.
4722 Baltimore Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19143
215.727.0882 a-space@defenestrator.org

WOODEN SHOE BOOKS and RECORDS -

Anarchist bookstore owned and run by an unpaid
collective of geniuses with nothing better to do than
sit around talking philosophy and riots. Carries a
wide range of anarchist and radical books, periodi-
cals, pamphlets, T-shirts, patches, CD's records
etc.
508 S. Fifth Street Philadelphia, PA
215.413.0999 woodenshoe@rocketmail.com

Firehouse Bikes- A worker owned collective bike
shop. 50th and Baltimore

The Divine Bicycle Church

West Philly bike co-
op. Tools and recycled parts available for use.
Every Tuesday and Thursday 6:30-9pm
40th and Locust Walk behind St. Marx Church

Crossroads Women's Center- open Tuesdays and
Thursdays 10am-2pm or by appointment
33 Maplewood Mall, Germantown 215-848-1120

The Friends Center - American Friends Service
Committee HQ. Contains meeting spaces and
offices for a gazillion different entities.
1501 Cherry Street

Wise Women's Center

Open Wed 10am-2pm, Thu 4-8pm, Sat 10am-3pm
735 S. 50th St.
215-729-WISE

The Spiral Q Puppet Theater

3114 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA
19104
spiralq@spiralq.org

215-222-6979 Fax: 215-222-7002

Women's Anti Violence Education

1501 Cherry St., Phila , PA 19102
(215) 241-5720 aware1@afsc.org